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Admin Violated Promises on Handbook Revisions, Students Say

By ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editor

After senior college officials announced changes to the college handbook earlier this month, several student leaders expressed disappointment that they were not involved in the process, citing earlier meetings with senior officials during which they were promised input.

Kyle Wright '19.5 and Travis Wayne Sanderson '19, the current and former co-chairs of Community Council, were two of four students who met with senior administrators last spring.

Wright and Sanderson co-wrote and sponsored a bill last spring that aimed to change language in the "Demonstrations and Protests" section of the handbook in order to better protect the rights of student protesters. The Student Government Association (SGA) passed their bill at the body's April 23 meeting.

After that resolution was passed, Sanderson and Wright participated in a meeting with President Laurie L. Patton, dean of the college Katy Smith Abbott and diversity officer Miguel Fernández to discuss the bill's suggestions. Other students at the meeting included Emily Cipriani '19.5 and Sandra Luo '18, then a member of Community Council.

"At the meeting the four of us had with Laurie Patton, Katy Smith Abbott and Miguel Fernandez, which lasted one night from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m., there was a spoken agreement to involve students in the process this past summer in response to the bill SGA passed last semester," Sanderson wrote in an email to The Campus.

Wright interpreted the same commitment from the administrators at the meeting.

"Katy and I had multiple conversations that were like, 'We're going to look at it this summer, handbook review is performed during the summer,'" Wright said. "It was communicated very clearly that there would be further conversations specifically and explicitly involving the handbook."

But on Sept. 13 Smith Abbott announced the completion and availability of an updated handbook for the 2017–2018 academic year that did not involve students.

"I don't know of any student involvement, which was promised to us," Wright said.

Cipriani and Sanderson were both on campus this past summer, but were not contacted to resume discussion.

"[President Patton] mentioned that she hoped that since Travis and I were going to be on campus for language school maybe we could continue the conversation into the summer," Cipriani told The Campus in an email.

"This seemed genuine on her part, however nothing came of it. Neither Travis nor I were contacted, and due to time constraints and the language pledge I did not contact President Patton. Whether something would have panned out if I had I will never know, but if President Patton was willing to meet with us until close to midnight my guess is she would have made something work."

Sanderson interpreted his exclusion as indicative of a lack of administrative interest in student's wishes.

"Their not inviting us sent a clear signal that they were not concerned enough about students' opinions to have students in the room," he wrote. "If Student Government, the representatives of the school, shows overwhelming support for a bill, then there should be active effort by the administration to try to fulfill its requests."

Sanderson cited the availability of the April SGA bill as another missed opportunity for administrators to include student voices in a policy revision over the summer.

"Even if they had not invited us, they could have utilized the protest policies bill passed by SGA to reform the section. In the bill, there were very clear requests, democratically passed by a large majority of the elected representatives of the student body, thus signaling student body support," he wrote. "These requests included down to the word of how to revise the section, so there was no vagueness whatsoever."

Wright was similarly frustrated.

"It's so troubling to see that we can have a very explicit conversation where things are agreed upon ostensibly, and then people are not involved. The change doesn't happen and there's no communication," he said.

"I understand that plates can get full. People have a lot that they're dealing with in the administration, but there's this culture of unrest that has been percolating and is aggravated by this type of behavior and performance."

He emphasized that the relationship between the administration and student leaders needs to change.

"It seems like summer comes around and students are no longer relevant. Once we're not longer actually there in the space, any sort of coalition that was established dissipates," he said. "It's something that needs to change."

Cipriani posited that the administration's obligations to other interests may have prevented change to the relevant policy over the summer.

"With regards to the lack of changes, when the Charles Murray protests first happened, I assumed that the largest problem was that [administrators] were out of touch with the

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SILVIA CANTU BAUTISTA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The vertical dance group Bandaloop performed at the Mahaney Center for the Arts pavilion Friday, as part of the start-of-school concert S.O.S. Fest.

Judge Who Struck Down Trump Travel Ban Returns to Campus, Delivers Lecture

By NICK GARBER
News Editor

In the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 29, Judge Allison D. Burroughs of the District Court for Massachusetts sat inside a Boston courthouse and made an easy decision with nationwide ramifications. Burroughs, alongside Magistrate Judge Judith G. Dein, issued a temporary restraining order against President Donald J. Trump's travel ban, which had blocked entry into the United States for refugees and immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. Burroughs and Dein delayed Trump's order for seven days, dealing a significant blow to the president's agenda and transforming Boston's Logan Airport into a temporary safe haven for affected travelers.

Last week, Burroughs, who graduated from Middlebury in 1983, returned to campus to provide an overview of her life and career, including the January case that thrust her into the national spotlight.

"I make a lot of super hard decisions every month," she told an audience of students at the Hillcrest Environmental Center on Thursday, Sept. 14. "This travel ban case, to be perfectly honest, was not a hard decision. It was obvious, in my view, what needed to be done."

"My job is not to write the law, my job is to apply the facts to the law," Burroughs explained. "Maybe people think that it takes courage to stand up to a President of the United States. But my job isn't to consider the politics of it — my job is to look at the law and to look at the facts. And it's very clear that the president, in my view, didn't have the authority to keep green card holders from entering the country. So, in terms of application of facts to law, it was very straightforward."

A STEADY RISE

The travel ban case, Burroughs conceded, is likely to represent her "five minutes of fame." But those five minutes came only after decades of advancements through the legal sphere, beginning as a low-level attorney in the Department of Justice. After a series of lucky breaks, Burroughs eventually became the lead prosecutor on a high-profile drug trafficking case in Philadelphia, which brought her local recognition and fulfilled a lifelong dream of trying criminal cases.

The lesson from her steady rise through the Justice Department, Burroughs said, was to beware "the danger of holding out for the most perfect thing, rather than the thing that lets you get your foot in the door and gives you a chance to prove yourself."

Burroughs continued to work in criminal prosecution until 2005, at which point she moved to the private sector. All the while, however, a federal judgeship loomed large in her mind — particularly after numerous failed applications to Senate recommendation committees. Her moment finally arrived in 2014, when Senator Elizabeth Warren recommended Burroughs's name to President Barack Obama for a seat on the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts.

"People ask me, 'What was your

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SILVIA CANTU BAUTISTA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Alllison D. Burroughs '83, a United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, spoke at Hillcrest Environmental Center last Thursday.

FEDERAL CHANGES TO TITLE IX ON SEXUAL ASSAULT COULD IMPACT MIDDLEBURY

By SARAH ASCH
Features Editor

In a move that outraged many advocates for survivors of sexual assault, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced on Sept. 7 that her department would reexamine Obama-era guidelines regarding how colleges handle sexual assault claims under Title IX. DeVos's remarks, delivered at George Mason University, came after she met with various groups to discuss sexual violence on campuses.

Title IX is part of the Education Act of 1972, and it states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Many people associate Title IX with the effect it had on women's athletics in schools, but Title IX also includes provisions about how colleges and universities handle cases of sexual assault.

Sue Ritter, the Title IX coordinator at the College, explained that because the College receives federal funds, we must comply with Title IX, which includes directives that govern the implementation and enforcement of sexual assault and sexual harassment policies. "Any college or university that receives federal funding regardless of whether they're public or private has to comply with Title IX and it's the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination," Ritter said. "Sexual assault is a form of sex discrimination just as sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination — the theory being that if you are sexually assaulted it has such a profound impact on you that it essentially denies you equal access to educational programs or activities."

Though DeVos did not make any concrete policy proposals during her speech, she emphasized the need for due process in Title IX enforcement. "The truth is that the system established by the prior administration has failed too many students," DeVos said, adding that part of why our system is failing is because it lacks due process.

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Community Council Co-Chair Outlines Goals for Upcoming Year

By NICK GARBER and ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editors

This week The Campus sat down with Kyle Wright '19.5, Student Co-Chair of Community Council for the fall semester. This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Middlebury Campus (MC): What are your main goals for the upcoming year as co-chair?

Kyle Wright (KW): The biggest things that I focused on in the platform were inclusivity and community building as an umbrella to be able to discuss and tackle various issues prevalent on campus right now. A lot of that includes financial sustainability, transparency and accountability. Environmental sustainability is also a big factor.

With the events that happened last spring, there are conversations that need to be addressed. This year, I'm finally seeing that platform become more tangible. A complicated discussion has also fallen onto my plate: the administration is hoping Community Council will do a comprehensive review of the commons system, how effective it's been, whether it's been realized in the way the original establishers of that system thought it would be implemented and whether it makes sense to go forward with any emendations to the system.

MC: What do you view as Community Council's main strengths as a body? Where has it failed?

KW: My understanding is that Community Council has been an ambiguous body for a long time and has had strong suits based on the co-chair and the student, faculty and staff members that are involved. Those typically tend to lean towards this recommendation process that has been increasingly solidified over the past year, and having Community Council be less of a legislative body and more of a community forum, able to deliberate over issues in a way that SGA, staff council and faculty council don't.

MC: What role do you envision for Community Council in the ongoing aftermath of the Charles Murray event?

KW: I think a lot of people are looking to Community Council as the only forum that can tackle the discussion of not just what happened on March 2, but why it happened, because a lot of people appreciate that it wasn't just about Murray. So how do we engage people in conversation to get to the root of not only the how, but the why surrounding the feelings, tensions, emotions and opinions of a variety of community members who need to be brought into that conversation? What created that environment, what went unsaid prior to that explosive demonstration on March 2, and how do we find ways to be vulnerable surrounding our individual roles in that?

How do we find ways to engage each other in dialogue after we were involved in events and actions that hurt other members of this community? How do we implement restorative practices across the institution, and support the administration in doing that? That's the first step, which

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ALUM SPEAKS ON JUDGESHIP, TRUMP

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juice, how did you get in, who did you know?'" Burroughs said. "The only thing I can really attribute it to is sheer perseverance. I went at it and at it and at it. There's really no shame in trying and being rejected."

ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In her lecture, Burroughs emphasized her willingness to speak candidly about almost any subject. Indeed, she shared that judging itself is a decidedly human enterprise.

"I'm very comfortable with everything I did during my prosecutorial career," Burroughs said. "[But] as a judge, it is astounding the number of times I read one brief and I think, 'They have it.' Then, I read the other brief and I'm like, 'Maybe they have it.' By the time a lot of these issues get to me, they're hard—if it were obvious, the parties would've worked it out themselves"

Yet, she cautioned, such subjectivity makes it all the more crucial to minimize bias. While considering the travel ban case, for example, Burroughs stressed that the human interest stories reported in the media were not a factor in her decision.

"If you don't understand this when you're applying to be a judge, it is drilled into you at the training you get: your job is just to apply the law to the facts. It's not a creative position," she said. "There's a lot of gray area that requires some judgment calls, but you don't get to think about what the stories are when you're making those decisions. I didn't think about it, I didn't have the opportunity to think about it, and I'm glad I wasn't in the position where it would've been tempting to think about it."

Still, Burroughs admitted that the criminal justice system contains structural imperfections, particularly with regard to drug policy.

"I think that we need to have a more thoughtful criminal justice posture, by which I mean more strategic," Burroughs said. "We can't just be "prosecute, prosecute, prosecute; jail, jail, jail... It's going to be very hard to kill drug distribution in this country. To get rid of violent drug distribution seems more worthwhile."

LOOKING BACK

Despite the long list of achievements that Burroughs recounted in her lecture, she told The Campus afterwards that the phenomenon of "imposter syndrome" — feeling undeserving of one's own accomplishments — is largely unknown to her.

"I clerked after law school for [federal judge] Norma Shapiro," Burroughs said. "The one thing clerkship gives you is: you walk away thinking, 'If all of these buffoons can earn a living, I can too.' You see people in court that are so terrible and unprepared. So, I come at it thinking, to be good at most things, you don't have to be the smartest kid in the room. You just have to be the best prepared and willing to work the hardest."

"I know there's tons of stuff I don't know, and I work my tail off to get competent," Burroughs said. "I'm not the most super-confident person in the world, but I've always felt that if you work hard and do your best, that's all anybody's doing. That's all anybody can ask of you."

Administration Responds to Handbook Complaints

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tors] were out of touch with the student body," she wrote. "After meeting with President Patton, Katy Smith Abbott and Miguel Fernandez, I have come to the realization that [administrators] understand what students want, they just have other priorities, namely alumni donations and their own personal views on free speech."

In an email to The Campus, Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernandez wrote that he was not involved in this year's revisions of the handbook.

"My understanding of the changes to the handbook is that it has been a reorganization and not a change... the change in structure is for clarification, separating policies from practices, etc," he told The Campus. "This does not constitute a review or change of policies, in which we would have every intention of including students."

When The Campus reached out to Smith Abbott for comment on whether or not students were involved in the summer changes to the handbook, this reporter was directed to another administrator.

After The Campus sent a follow-up email to Smith Abbott, asking whether another review of the handbook would take place during the coming academic year, she agreed to comment. Smith Abbott described a plan to include students in the future, citing a student handbook advisory committee the administration hopes to create.

"In the near term, my hunch is that this group would focus on the demonstrations and protests policy, as per the SGA resolution of last spring," she wrote. "Because that resolution was reviewed by the president and SLG relatively late in the spring, it makes sense to bring students together now to further discuss this policy and to consider other areas where our policies can be clarified or enhanced."

Smith Abbott hopes the advisory committee will have a long-term impact on the way students interact with the handbook.

"The hope is that a standing student committee would ensure regular review and feedback on all aspects of the handbook," she wrote. "Although the comprehensive updates...will continue to occur during the summer, while most students are away, the work of an academic-year student committee would ensure that we have input from a broad range of student perspectives, and that these could be incorporated into those annual (summer) updates and edits."

"I've written to Kyle Wright, student co-chair of Community Council and Jin Sohn, SGA president, to ask for their partnership in constituting this committee," she added.When The Campus asked Wright about his potential involvement in the committee, he replied that while he appreciated the intentions behind the proposal, he was frustrated by the way the plan came about.

"I was immensely disappointed to learn, only upon reaching out to Katy myself this past Monday, that plans regarding a handbook review had materialized without input from students," he wrote. "Entire conversations had occurred regarding the creation of a 'handbook review committee' supported by the SGA and Community Counsel without immediately involving SGA President Jin Sohn or myself."

"Until [Monday] afternoon, I had received no communication from Dean Smith Abbott or other pertinent parties in respect to moving that process forward; nor, to my knowledge, were any other students contacted regarding that process," he added.

Wright is disheartened by what he sees as continued failures in communication between administrators and students.

"This lack of clear and inclusive communication on the part of administrators continues to contribute to a campus culture in which conversations surrounding major decisions are made inaccessible to students," he wrote.

"Nevertheless, I am glad that members of the administration have outlined a preliminary proposal to involve students in a review of handbook policy. I am very hopeful that we can continue to strengthen student and community involvement and move forward in addressing our most pressing concerns despite this snafu," he added.

Will DiGravio contributed reporting.

COMM. COUNCIL CO-CHAIR SHARES PLANS

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means reaching out to groups who aren't necessarily active on campus, or who probably wouldn't apply for Community Council. We're going to have uncomfortable and at times extremely unproductive conversations. Whether people like it or not, that needs to be done, because we need to get to a place of understanding before moving forward.

Step two is to figure out a concrete series of mechanisms through which we can move forward and get to a place where this won't happen again. That looks like hosting more events and bringing different groups together in spaces that will create a better sense of social community. In my opinion, a lot of the divides that resulted in the demonstration in March stemmed from the fact that we don't interact enough, so events like that are the primary focus. Working with different clubs and groups on campus to understand their needs is also extremely important. I'm toying around with the idea of assigning community councilors to be liaisons to groups on campus and bring those voices to the table without having to fill our room with 40 or 50 people at a time, which isn't feasible.

MC: In the Campus article that ran after your election win in the spring, you stressed your desire to promote "micro-conversation and critical self-reflection" as approaches to community building, as opposed to "rhetoric and confrontational free speech." How do you hope to create spaces for these types of interactions?

KW: The majority of my work is going to be reaching out to constituencies and making sure there are lines of communication to get people there in the first place. The majority of the work implementing those events and mechanisms will go to Tina Brook in the spring.

That said, there are some integral mechanisms. I'd love to put together a series of reports that focus on issues that people want to know about. I want to work with people who are invested in this community and people who are not necessarily invested. I don't want to put an idea out there that is just coming out of my head. I want to see what's relevant for groups on campus and what's going to help them participate more fully in these conversations.

A big part of this is coalitional resilience, which I've talked about relatively constantly since March 2. It's the idea that rhetorical resilience isn't necessarily enough. It's a great theory and Laurie Patton put a lot of work, passion and time into her theorizations and conversations surrounding it. But if March 2 showed us one thing it's that rhetorical resilience doesn't take into account the lived experiences and traumas that can be dredged up by rhetoric. So for me it's about allowing people to have hard conversations and then step back into safe spaces in order to recharge.

MC: Moving from SGA to CC, you've gone from working separately from administrators to working alongside them. How do you feel about that new collaboration?

KW: I have a terrific working relationship with Laurie Patton, Katy Smith Abbott, Baishakhi Taylor and [Associate Dean of Students] Doug Adams, so it's easier for me to step into those spaces. Other students don't necessarily have that luxury, so making sure that they do is a big focus. A huge part of that includes the administration owning up to things that a lot of us don't want to talk about. That includes the fact that a lot of the student protesters sanctioned after March 2 were [sanctioned] in a way that was deeply isolating and targeting to those students. Many of them only had a few weeks left on campus and left Middlebury with memories of being, in essence, prosecuted by investigators, and having to prove themselves innocent prior to being assumed so. An entire other degree of damage was done in those weeks following the Murray protest.

Being able to own what we participated in so long as that's safe to do, not going at each other's throats for our political leanings or individual beliefs and stepping into a space where we can seek to understand and not critique is key. I think the most important thing we can do is reach out in ways that are uncomfortable. People need to have safe spaces. They allow participation in difficult discussions. But I think this community still has the power to have transformative conversations. This is a hard time for our college community, but I have faith that we're going to be able to come out of it better than when we went in.

Envisioning Middlebury Moves Forward

By KYLE NAUGHTON
News Editor

The Envisioning Middlebury program is currently entering its second year of implementation, and both student groups and administrators feel optimistic about the initiative's future.

"The Envisioning Middlebury initiative is both bold and comprehensive," said Rae Aaron '19.5, Speaker of the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate. "[It] forces members of our community to ask ourselves forward-looking questions that expand our day-to-day outlook."

President Laurie L. Patton initially announced her "Envisioning Middlebury" plan in March 2016, describing

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
Provost Susan Baldridge.

it as a way to address institutional issues and reassert communal values over the coming two years. President Patton intended to use this process as a mechanism to define questions regarding Middlebury's identity, its principles, and the direction it will take moving forward.

"The goal," Provost Susan Baldridge said, "was a nimble, inclusive, and forward-looking process, leading to a visionary and strategic foundation that is informed by our values and traditions, and can serve as a means of guiding, aligning and prioritizing the future."

The administration established a steering committee and an advisory committee to gain communal feedback and incorporate a wide variety of constituencies, hoping to draft an inclusive and relevant strategic framework on how Middlebury should proceed. These organizations held a variety of surveys and facilitated conversations to address particular concerns or ideas on campus, ultimately garnering the participation of over two thousand community members.

In May 2017, the steering committee introduced its first draft strategic framework to the board of trustees, revealing the plan to the Middlebury community over the course of multiple open meetings later that spring and during summer.

"This draft framework," Baldridge said, "[included] an institutional mission statement, a vision statement, a set of distinctions reflecting current strengths that Middlebury can build on, a set of broad strategic directions that will help guide our setting of priorities for the next three-five years, and a set of principles that describe how we will work together."

In regard to the efficacy of Envisioning Middlebury during its first year of implementation, the administration feels particularly proud of the communal support and participation the program has garnered thus far.

"We hoped that we would engage as many members of the community as possible, over the course of a year-long conversation," Baldridge said. "That conversation took place in every Middlebury location, in every program, with every constituency, during the academic year and during the summer. Participation was impressive, and the conversation is continuing."

Additionally, the administration believes the draft strategic framework effectively encompasses specific goals and principles while still remaining broad enough to facilitate communal adaptation and change moving forward.

"President Patton asked us to create a new kind of strategic plan that could guide us through the complicated times we live in," Baldridge said, "[one] that is not overly prescriptive about specific outcomes, but that acknowledges Middlebury's distinctiveness, articulates the principles we need to follow, and sets forth how we need to adapt and grow into the future. The draft strategic framework fits nicely on one page, but contains within its broad concepts many possibilities for our diverse community to realize our collective and individual aspirations."

Looking forward into the upcoming academic year, the administration would like to shift Envisioning Middlebury's focus from holding a surplus of events and conversations to the realistic implementation of the strategic framework.

"As we pursue the strategic directions," Baldridge said, "we will be looking for ideas for bold new initiatives, but we will also want to give individuals and groups agency to imagine how they might apply the strategic directions and principles to reshaping their own work and the way they live in this community. The next phase will focus less on public events and conversations, and more on how we can integrate the strategic directions into what we do, and how we can communicate effectively with each other about the intentional choices we make as we set priorities for the future."

Members of the student body similarly hope that Middlebury will successfully incorporate the strategic framework throughout the coming months.

"Envisioning Middlebury has sought to bring together members of our community to discuss our identity and direction as an institution," Co-Chair of Community Council Kyle Wright '19.5 said. "I believe that the institution has made a very necessary step in creating a campus environment in which coalition and inclusive exchanges of ideas can prosper and influence the way we look at ourselves as a community."

"Specifically through the Envisioning Middlebury conversations," Aaron said, "I'm optimistic that different communities within the College will take advantage of the chance to contribute long-term changes and improvements."

"I hope [Envisioning Middlebury's] conversations can continue moving forward beyond the completion of Envisioning Middlebury," SGA President Jin Sohn '18, "specifically in the implementation stage. I am excited to see the final draft of the strategic framework next week!"

The final draft of Envisioning Middlebury's strategic platform will be discussed in a series of open meetings held on September 26 at 4:30 p.m. in McCardell Bicentennial Hall and September 27 at 7:30 a.m. in Wilson Hall, both of which will be live-streamed. This final draft will then be presented to the board of trustees for approval during the October board meeting.

NEW AND IMPROVED GRILLEME SERVICE DECREASES WAIT, INCREASES HOURS

By LUCY GRINDON
Senior Writer

The students behind GrilleMe, Middlebury's late-night Grille delivery service, are reducing delivery wait time, establishing consistent year-long hours of operation and expanding their business to four new colleges.

"There's a huge dormant demand for Grille delivery, so we're trying to make it a little more consistent," said Cameron Dewey '18, who co-founded GrilleMe last year.

Dewey, alongside co-founders Andrew Cadienhead '18 and Andrew Jung '17, will try to capitalize on the desire for late night food by maintaining their delivery service throughout the year. "There's a huge dormant demand for Grille delivery, so we're trying to make it a little more consistent," Dewey said.

Their main goal for this school year is to expedite deliveries and to decrease customers' waiting time by hiring employees who can deliver food by car instead of on foot.

In addition to making their service faster, Dewey and Cadienhead have revamped their mobile website, grilleme.com, for an easier user experience. "It's completely new," Dewey said. "We spent a lot of time getting that up to speed."

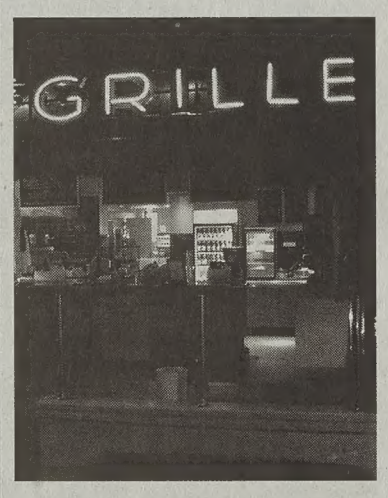
GrilleMe's efforts to expedite service and improve customers' online experiences were in response to complaints the founders received last year.

"I think the first year was pretty choppy just because there are so many things you can't predict when you first start up," Cadienhead said.

As the organization launches their improved service, they hope to continue to improve their business.

"We are very open to people telling us their complaints about the service," Dewey said.

While Cadienhead directs GrilleMe's operations at Middlebury, Dewey will manage the intercollegiate expansion of UniDel, the official company that he, Cadienhead and Jung have founded. This year, UniDel will begin facilitating food delivery services at Colby, Amherst, Wesleyan, and Washington and Lee.



"It's basically the same exact company at each different school," Dewey said. "We're giving them the web platform, we're giving them our marketing materials, and we're giving them guidance because in some of the schools you need to fill out an application to run a student business."

GrilleMe has worked at Middlebury, but it is unclear whether UniDel's four new delivery services will be profitable.

"The risk is on us," said Cadienhead. "We pay [employees] a minimum salary no matter what just to incentivize work, even when they're not seeing results right away."

Still, if the fledgling businesses at the other colleges are able to cooperate effectively with food services, they should make enough money to be self-sustaining and boost business for the restaurants whose food they deliver.

"Before [GrilleMe] came along, the Grille was doing fine, but we've increased their revenue a lot. We account for between a third and half of their business now," Dewey said. "At the end of the day, we help them as much as they help us, so we want to optimize that as much as we can."

GrilleMe operates from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, and from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

A Backcountry Retreat at Our Burgin Lodge

By MORGAN PERLMAN
Outdoor Exploration Columnist

For my first installation of the Mountain Club's Fortnightly Feature column, I thought it would be timely to introduce or, for many, re-introduce the recently constructed Burgin Lodge on Middlebury's special Bread Loaf lands.

Now in its second year as a backcountry retreat for the college community, the Burgin Lodge was built in memoriam of Ian Burgin '08 whose passion for the outdoors, the Mountain Club and love of the now-closed Worth Mountain Lodge was the inspiration and spirit that brought the idea of a new Middlebury wilderness cabin to fruition. I am forever grateful for the family, donors, planners, builders, Ian's friends and the many others involved in making this project happen.

Situated in a beautiful maple-beech hardwood forest in the Bread Loaf Conservation Area, supported by rich amber beams of locally harvested old-growth hemlock and outfitted with a toasty wood stove and roomy bunks to comfortably sleep a dozen, this cabin always gives me goosebumps when I unlock its door and waft its idiosyncratic woodsy scent of white pine, maple, oak, and hemlock — all the species used in its construction. I find it truly unprecedented and unique for a college like Middlebury to have such a beautiful resource.

During the winter, the cabin is very convenient to access either on skis or snowshoes; traveling without skis or snowshoes is not allowed as it damages the groomed nordic trails. As we are now in the snowless, warmer months, walking to it through Bread Loaf's conserved forests is a pleasure. The trailhead starts at the Bread Loaf Campus' parking area, with specially marked Burgin Lodge guest parking spots.

The designated route, marked on a map received with the key, begins from the parking area, crosses the bridge on the northern end of the Fields and connects with the First Loop trail on the other side of Steam Mill Road. At the intersection on First Loop, guests make a right onto Frost which winds its way through a beautiful beech-maple forest on the outside edge of the Nordic trail network, reaching the cabin after about two miles. Be sure to bring a headlamp and be aware that navigating the trails for the first time, especially at night, can sometimes be difficult.

If you have interest in getting off campus for a night (or two or three . . .), you can reserve it by logging onto the Mountain Club's reservation system, Ideal Logic (go/ideal). One reservation accommodates up to four people. The cabin sleeps a maximum of 12 people per night and thus could be shared among multiple groups.

For a very large group that has interest in reserving the entire cabin, three reservations among 12 people will have to be made. Each reservation costs $5 to help maintain the cabin. The cabin comes stocked with a hefty Coleman cooking stove and fuel. Other camping gear that anyone may need can be borrowed from the Gear Room in FIC on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

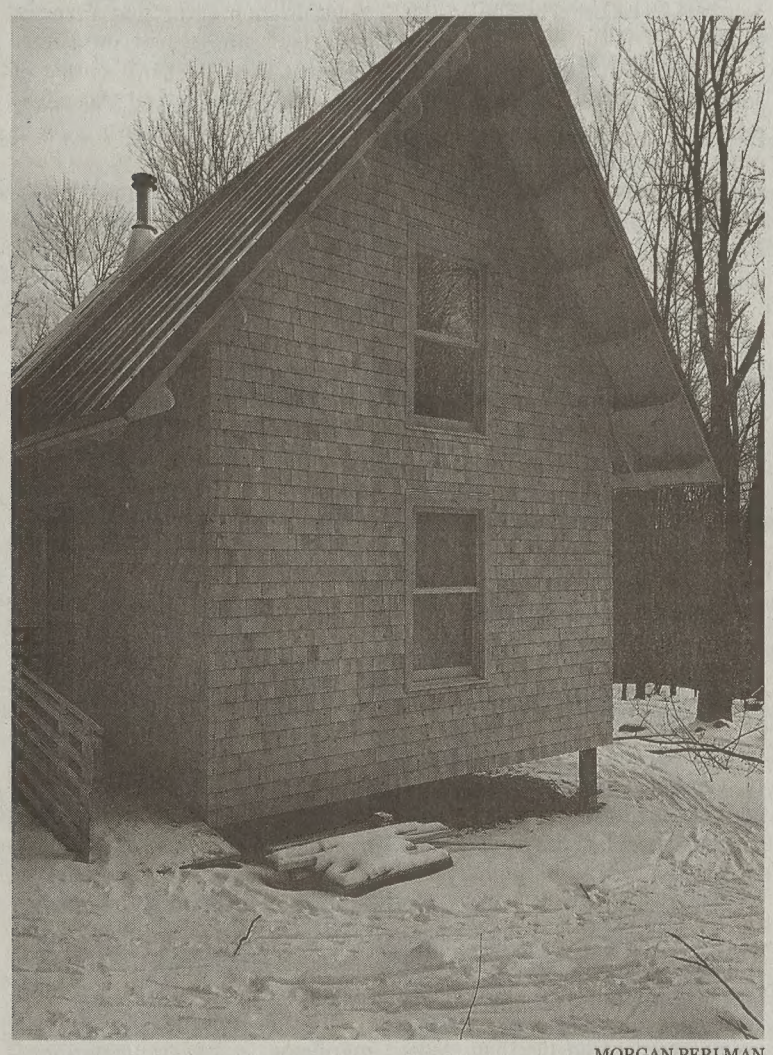
If you do not have access to a car and would like to go, there is an ACTR bus stop at Bread Loaf. Guests should expect to bring plenty of water when there is no snow to melt, as the site surrounding the lodge is very dry. It is primitive with neither electricity nor running water, and it has a privy in the back that functions as a toilet.

Spending a night at the lodge is a wonderful nature experience that I highly recommend any student take advantage of while they are here at the college!

Ian's legacy lives on!

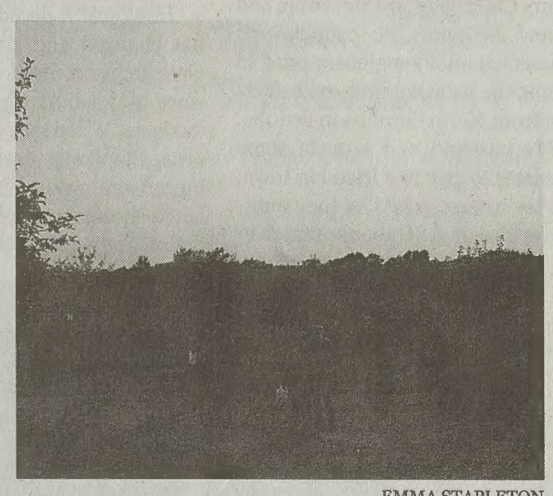
MORGAN PERLMAN

Burgin Lodge without snow.



MORGAN PERLMAN

Burgin Lodge surrounded by snow.



EMMA STAPLETON

Happy Valley Orchard in Middlebury, Vermont.

A Local Guide To Apple Picking This Season

By REBECCA WALKER
Local Editor

ANNA LUECK

As the leaves start to change and the school year kicks into full gear, students and locals alike have the opportunity to celebrate the fall at the many apple orchards that exist throughout the state of Vermont. Whether your forte is picking apples, shopping at farm stands or consuming ciders and donuts, Vermont apple orchards will not disappoint in the activities and products that they offer.

Not far from the college, Happy Valley Orchard in Middlebury grows about 50 varieties of apples in their 14-acre orchard. They have the basics, like Cortland and Macintosh, but they also have a number of heirloom apples and other varieties, all available for picking.

"We don't limit where you can pick," Mary Pratt, co-owner of Happy Valley Orchard told The Campus. "You can pick anywhere in the orchard you want, and we are unique in that every row of trees has more than one variety of apple in it since we're a small orchard."

The orchard also boasts a variety of trees that should fit the needs of all visitors to Happy Valley.

"We have a lot of big trees here," Pratt explained. "We have some that are probably over 50 years old so they're huge. We also have some small trees, but since we're 'pick your own,' people do like the big trees."

From September to November, Happy Valley Orchard is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition to picking your own apples, the business also has a farm stand on site, at which customers can purchase things like cider, pumpkins, gourds, mums and donuts.

"We are noted for cider donuts," Pratt emphasized.

Pratt said that Happy Valley has a cider mill, where they make their own fresh cider. Because of this, customers can purchase untreated cider, meaning that "it's raw and it hasn't had anything done to it." The orchard sells their cider elsewhere as well. Selling cider wholesale, outside of the business requires a UV light process, according to Pratt.

"Right now, we press all of the cider for a hard cider company up in Burlington called Citizen Cider, so that keeps us pretty busy," Pratt added.

Happy Valley is planning a big event called Cider Fest on Oct. 7 that they will host right at the orchard from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"We combine with Citizen Cider and we have music, food trucks, we do apple tasting, we usually have fresh cider samples, and Drop-In Brewery will be here selling their cider and beer," Pratt said.

Although owning an orchard is not an easy task, Pratt noted that she and her husband find joy in the challenges and successes.

"This is something that we really enjoy doing," Pratt said.

A slightly longer drive from campus, Shelburne Orchards offers "pick your own" apples as well. They are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Their website advertises the McIntosh and Gala apples that they have for picking, and notes that Honey Crisps will be coming soon.

In addition to apples, the orchard also has a store with their own distilled apple brandy, non-alcoholic Ginger Jack, cider and fresh cider donuts. The orchard celebrates the season with a number of apple-related events as well. This Sunday, Sept. 24, Shelburne Orchards will host its 16th annual Pie Fest, which will consist of an apple pie baking contest, pie eating and live music. For Vermonters looking for apples and cider in large quantities, Shelburne Orchards will also host a Truckload and Hard Cider Weekend on Oct. 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. where attendees can pay to fill their cars and trucks up with apples.

Other orchards, such as Sunrise Orchards in Cornwall, set themselves apart in that most of their work is done behind the scenes to create products that their consumers enjoy. Chris Hodges of Sunrise Orchards shared in an email to The Campus that their orchard is 200 acres and that they grew a number of different apples, such as McIntosh, Empire, Cortland, Honey Crisp, Paula Red, Macoun, Red Delicious and Granny Smith.

"The Vermont climate lends itself well to apple growing with hot summers and cool, sun-filled autumns that redden the fruit during its last stages of growth," noted Hodges in her email.

Although customers cannot pick their own apples at Sunrise Orchards, they can enjoy them once the orchard begins the harvesting and selling season around mid-August. Sunrise Orchards sells its apples in stores all over Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. The orchard also ensures continued distribution throughout the year, as they refrigerate and store around half of their crop for just that purpose.

Sunrise Orchards prides itself on the quality of its fruit, land and growing practices. People at the orchard work with Red Tomato, which is a non-profit organization that focuses on ecological growing processes.

"We are part of a group of growers from around the New England region who adhere to strict growing practices that emphasize the health of our soils, waterways and workers, and encourages beneficial insect species in the control of pests," Hodges emphasized.

For anyone interested in taking advantage of Vermont's helpful apple-growing climate, these three orchards are a good place to start looking, but they are not the only apple growers in Vermont. For a more thorough listing of apple orchards, places to pick and apple events in Vermont, take a look at vermontapples.org. Happy picking!

ANNA LUECK

A Bittersweet Move for Midd Chocolates

By AMELIA POLLARD
Local Editor

VERGENNES — After seven years as a key establishment in the downtown area, Middlebury Chocolates bid the town farewell last month. The cozy spot tucked away in Frog Hollow Alley hosted a potluck featuring Understory Farm's roast pork on Aug. 27 as a way to have a final moment with members of the community.

The chocolatiers who started Middlebury Chocolates are Stephanie and Andrew Jackson. The couple were professional audio engineers prior to creating the shop, and moved to Vermont from North Carolina in 2010.

"My husband and I made some chocolates to give to a friend in town, and they were so good that they wanted to sell them," Stephanie said over the phone. "So, we started selling at Carol's Hungry Mind Café."

It became clear that the Jacksons had a special talent as chocolatiers at the same time that they became interested in starting a coffee shop in Middlebury.

"We just had this idea that we'd start a little coffee shop and wanted something to go with the coffee," Stephanie Jackson explained. "The chocolate kind of took on a life of its own."

The couple had no intention of making chocolate when the store first opened. After having their second child, the two were ready to explore a new adventure in rural Vermont. Andrew Jackson is from upstate New York and has family from Johnson, Vermont. The Jacksons described New England as a great place to raise kids.

"We've kind of been stuck here ever since — but in a good way" Stephanie Jackson joked.

In almost a decade, the company has changed and grown. The chocolate industry itself has also grown since Middlebury Chocolates opened its doors. When they started the business, Stephanie Jackson explained, there were around two dozen small batch chocolate makers in the United States. Today, she estimates that there are over 300 chocolate companies, all with similar goals of the Jacksons of a business model that is humble and works to bring sustainable foods to the table.

"It's kind of exciting to see that people are making or care about how their food's being farmed," Stephanie Jackson said. "There's a lot more spotlight on direct and fair-trade organics. Educating the public was a big hurdle that we had to get over."

Along with the chocolate industry, the town of Middlebury has also changed since Middlebury Chocolates' arrival. Restaurants and businesses have changed hands. The people in town also change often, as each year brings a new class of students to Middlebury College.

"Watching the flux of people is always interesting," Stephanie Jackson noted.

Although Middlebury Chocolates retail store no longer exists, the company has moved to a commercial kitchen in Vergennes in the revitalized Kennedy Brothers building. The structure is made up of cider operations as well as several office spaces.

"There's a café and farmers' market here — it's got a really nice vibe," Stephanie Jackson noted.

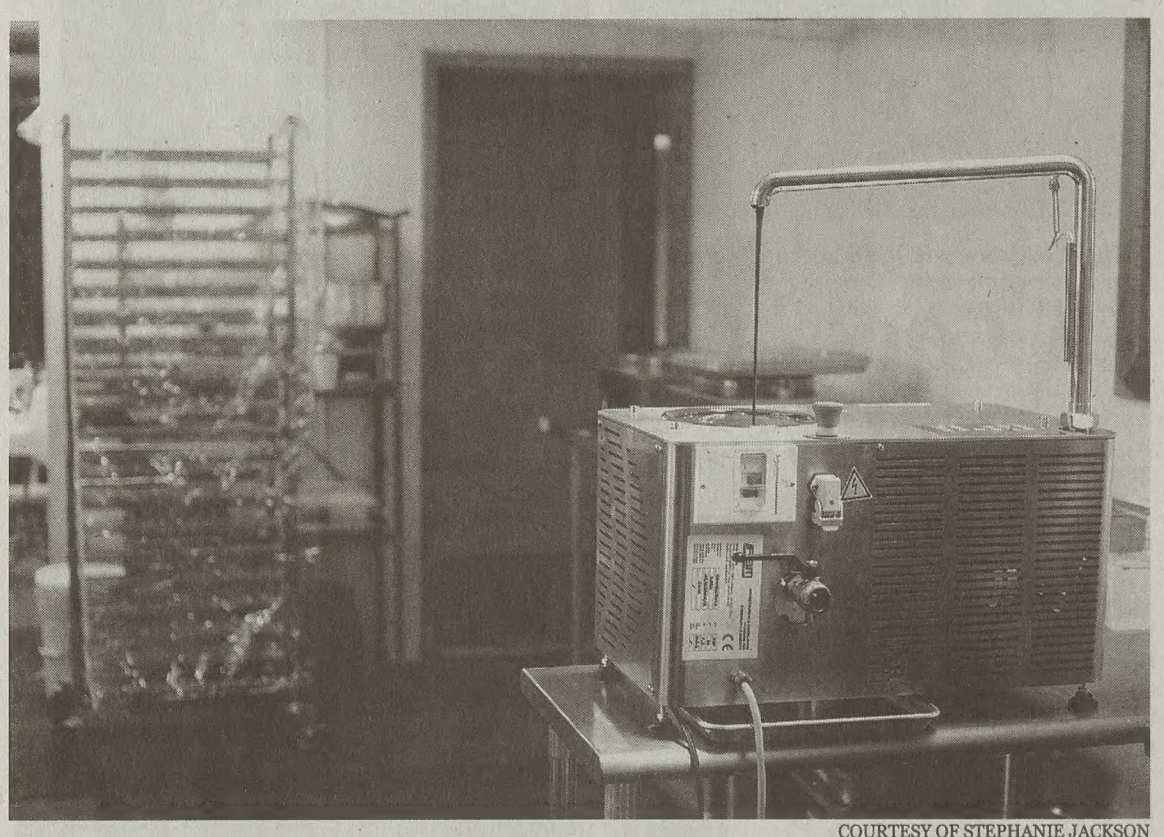
The decision to shift to a different mode of operation was initially based on the fourth child the couple is expecting.

"That was a big, surprising jolt," Stephanie. Jackson shared. "We knew we were stretched thin as it were. Something needed to give so that we could give the full attention to our family. It was very bittersweet."

In moving to Vergennes, the company will transition its focus to wholesale and keep the business growing steadily. Selling online, as well as to a few local businesses such as the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, has been the main priority in the first few weeks in their new commercial kitchen. In order to stay in the loop of local customers the company is working on developing a Community Supported Agriculture plan where people can come and pick up chocolates on a regular basis.

COURTESY OF STEPHANIE JACKSON

Stephanie Jackson with her three children, ages 4, 8 and 11.



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE JACKSON

Behind the scenes at Middlebury Chocolates' new Vergennes facility, which is in a commercial kitchen.

Middlebury Chocolates' relationship with the college has also been an interesting dynamic since its opening. According to Stephanie Jackson, there were a few years in a row that the college tried to create a presence from the company on campus, but she admitted that their price point was too high. The couple hopes to stay connected with the school in some form, however, and has already talked to faculty about bringing a special pop up to a Commons at some point this year. In the past, the company has also worked with the college's Alumni Relations department, often sending Middlebury Chocolates' products to donors.

Due to the fact that the store swiftly closed its doors just a couple of weeks before classes started for the fall semester, some students speculated that the timing of the closure was calculated.

"We weren't trying to sneak out or anything," Stephanie Jackson assured The Campus. "It mainly happened to be great timing with our lease and the place we were in."

She explained that the building that Middlebury Chocolates resided in, at the end of Frog Hollow Alley, had planned work to install natural gas in the coming months,. The construction would have forced the storefront to close for a period regardless, so their landlord gave them the opportunity to terminate their lease prematurely.

"We wanted to move before the busy season really kicks in," Stephanie Jackson said.

She did not deny the possibility of another future retail store.

"Part of me says yes," she admitted. "But I can't promise that."

With she and her husband mostly running the store, the hours were tremendously demanding.

"Retail is like a small child or a puppy — you have to nurture it constantly," Stephanie Jackson said. "There was never a time that we didn't work 12 hours a day, seven days a week." The extensive hours is something that Stefan Eisler, an employee who started working for the couple back in Middlebury, tries to alleviate for them a bit each week. "I like to make sure they can spend time with their family," he stated. "Anything I can do to help out."

The store has hired college students to help out over the years in Middlebury, however, and still employs Eisler, who has found some advantages from the move. "It's like I have my own laboratory now," Eisler said in a phone interview.

Looking forward, the company hopes to keep up the in-person experience by holding tastings at tea houses, cafes, or vineyards in the region. The business is hoping to partner with people in the community to facilitate a similar feel to that which the retail store evoked.

"We love our community and would love to see how much we can bring it together," Stephanie Jackson expressed.

Scott Considers Marijuana Legalization

By BRIDGET COLLITON
Local Editor

Vermont Governor Phil Scott (R) created a commission to study the legalization of marijuana in the state on Sept. 7 via executive order. This executive order comes only four months after Scott's veto of S. 241, a bill that would create a similar commission in addition to legalizing small amounts of marijuana for recreational use, which passed the Vermont Legislature in May 2017.

"This Commission is part of a more thoughtful, deliberative process to deal with an issue that impacts all of us" Scott said in a statement.

The commission will include thirteen members and will be chaired by Tom Little (R), and Jake Perkinson (D), as reported by The Burlington Free Press. The mission and timeline of the commission created by Gov. Scott via executive order will differ little from that conceived of by the Vermont Legislature in May. The commission will focus its studies on the public health in addition to the economic effects of the creation of a regulated marijuana market in Vermont. The commission will meet by Oct. 1 of this year and will release a report regarding the possibility of a taxed and regulated marijuana market in Vermont by Dec. 15.

Although 65 percent of Vermonters approve of the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana, passage of a bill guaranteeing that right has met opposition within the Vermont legislature in addition to bodies governing at the town and village level. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) currently lobbies the state government in favor of local interests and has been a vocal opponent of marijuana legalization in Vermont.

"Speaking with one voice on behalf of many Vermont municipalities, VLCT educates state and federal officials about the impact of their actions on local governments and informs them of municipal needs" The Vermont League of Cities and Towns said on their website. The VLCT opposes the legalization of marijuana in Vermont on the basis of lack of clarity of the proposed policies that would implement legalization.

"Town residents' responses were overwhelming 68 percent in favor of legalization, and against further lobbying on the issue 65 percent."

DAVE SILBERMAN
ATTORNEY

MARIJUANA.COM

Vermont's path to legalization runs through the state legislature.

"Because there are so many unanswered questions, VLCT has from day one opposed the legalization of marijuana, and supports keeping current law intact which treats possession of small amounts of marijuana as a ticket-able offense, similar to a traffic citation" Gwyn Zakov said in the VCLT's ninth Weekly Legislative Report of 2016.

For proponents of legalization, however, the study commission may not be as promising. Dave Silberman, a corporate lawyer based in Middlebury and spouse of a college professor, works pro bono on the legalization of marijuana in Vermont and explained this sentiment.

"The entire point of that commission is to slow things down" Silberman said. "The Vermont legislature has taken 100 hours of testimony in many different committees — all of these issues have been studied."

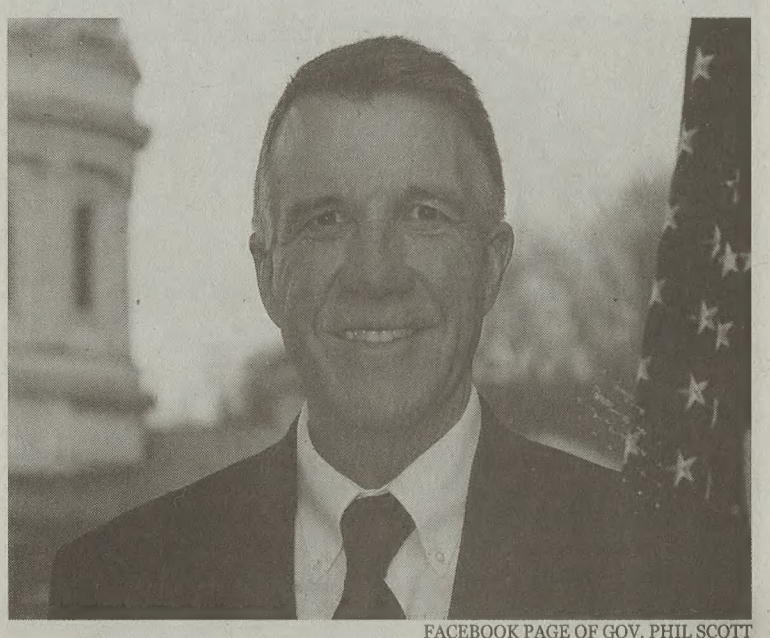
The issue of the legalization of marijuana is not confined to the Vermont state government but has also caused controversy within Middlebury's Selectboard, the entity that governs the local affairs of Middlebury along with the town manager.

"Each of the past two years, Middlebury's Selectboard had authorized our town's representative to the VLCT, Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, to [oppose legalization], but without any notice or public discussion around the marijuana platform" Silberman said in an email.

Afterwards, Middlebury town residents passed a resolution prohibiting the Selectboard, governing body, from taking a position on the legalization of marijuana without public hearings. In August, the Selectboard conducted a survey to find the Middlebury community's views on the legalization of marijuana.

"Town residents' responses were overwhelming 68 percent in favor of legalization, and against further lobbying on the issue 65 percent," Silberman said.

Proponents of legalization argue that legalization would provide a myriad of public health and economic benefits to the state of Vermont. In Colorado, it is estimated that the legalization of marijuana added 135 million dollars to the state's revenue in addition to creating thousands of new jobs, as reported by The Boston Globe.



FACEBOOK PAGE OF GOV. PHIL SCOTT

Gov. Phil Scott created a marijuana legalization study commission.

"In May, 2017, the non-partisan Joint Fiscal Office estimated that a regulated cannabis market would produce approximately $350 million of economic activity each year, or roughly 1.2 percent of annual Gross State Product" Silberman said.

Likewise, proponents argue that legalization would help stem the opioid crisis currently plaguing the state. Despite efforts to curb the crisis, Vermont accounted for 106 opioid related deaths in 2016 alone, representing a 41 percent increase from the previous year. Likewise, The Rutland Herald reported that 17 percent of Vermonters received a prescription for an opioid in 2014, greatly increasing their chances of becoming addicted to prescription opioids in addition to heroin.

"Given the choice, people suffering from chronic pain are choosing cannabis over far more harmful and addictive opioids. States with safe and legal access to cannabis, and particularly those with robust regulated distribution models, see 16 percent fewer opioid-drugged driving deaths, a 20 percent reduction in opioid-related hospitalizations, and 24 percent fewer opioid/opiate overdose deaths than states without" Silberman said.

On the other hand, opponents of legalization argue that Vermont lacks law enforcement infrastructure that is as extensive as that of states like Colorado and Massachusetts and that allows legalization to be a viable option.

"In a state where many communities do not have local police departments and have to contract out for law enforcement services and where towns are often far from those services, we worry that S.241 addresses none of these concerns. Compare that with Colorado, where every municipality that voted to allow marijuana establishment has a local police or sheriff department, and sometimes both," the VLCT said in a legislative report from March of 2016.

The VLCT also opposed S.241 on the grounds that it provided no funding for municipalities and local governments to handle the problems arising from the legalization.

Despite recent setbacks and strong opposition, supporters of legalization remain optimistic that the state of Vermont will eventually join the likes of the nine states in addition to the District of Columbia that have already legalized small amounts of marijuana for recreational use.

"The most harmful thing about marijuana is its criminalization," Silberman said.

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In Defense of DACA

For those less familiar with the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, here's a brief summary: The program began in 2012 with an executive order issued by President Obama. It allows for individuals brought to the United States as children to receive deferred action from deportation. DACA recipients pay a significant fee and submit the proper documentation. They must meticulously prove (among other requirements) that: they have a high school diploma, are in school, or served in the military; do not have a criminal record; and entered the country before the age of sixteen and have not left since.

In addition to the clear challenge of not being native born in the U.S, non-permanent resident immigrants like DACA recipients bear an inordinate burden, daily. Now, under the Trump Administration, the program is in grave danger. The President has repealed the executive order under the pretense that he wishes for Congress to solidify it into formal legislation. It is hard to know Trump's true intentions, but regardless, DACA is gone in six months if Congress cannot agree on something.

However, in this editorial, we will aim to address the issue as it applies to Middlebury College. We understand that DACA and immigration is a national issue, but we want to take the conversation beyond divisive Congressional lines and recognize that this issue affects members of this community, whether we know them personally or not — or whether we are even aware of their presence on this campus. Immigration should not be a partisan issue. No one is illegal and everyone has a right to a decent living and the pursuit of happiness. Neither side of our representatives in D.C. have ever been wholly on the moral side of this debate, a point we find valuable when considering the tension this conversation brings.

We, the Editorial board, would like to address the DACAmented and undocumented students on campus to make clear that we value your presence in our community and stand with you in this time of uncertainty and fear. We recognize the severity of the end of the program, and want you to know that, despite the actions of the current presidential administration, we believe in your right to live, work, learn, and thrive in this country.

We know that belief is often cheap abstraction. It won't make you feel safer or less vulnerable. It won't give you the tangible support that you need, and we realize that.

First, we would like to commend college administration for their proactive efforts in supporting DACAmented and undocumented students. Although the college may not be in a position of complete power to support and defend these students, we believe the prioritization of this concern is not to be understated. We want to follow the administration's model and discuss some concrete priorities we see for all levels of the Middlebury College community in supporting immigrants, documented or otherwise, on campus.

The executive order that established DACA was a temporary fix, and the security of Dreamers' lives here in the United States cannot be ensured short of federal law. We hope for a pronounced legislative effort to permanently solidify some form of the DACA program that guarantee basic and permanent rights for Dreamers. At the Middlebury College level, we encourage all members to participate in the democratic process in the methods to which we are accustomed: writing to our Congressional offices, volunteering with or donating to immigrants' rights organizations, and participating in peaceful protests. We need to show the country that this issue matters to us and that we demand change.

We further hope that the administration will continue to make this issue a priority, even when the primary national focus inevitably shifts elsewhere. Even with a solution for the approximately 800,000 DACA recipients, many undocumented immigrants (some living within our small Middlebury community) will still be left living in fear of deportation, a reality many of us never have to consider. As we move forward in our targeted support of Dreamers, we cannot forget the millions that are left without options. For those that are able, we must leverage our status-based privilege to show our community, both local and national, that we support the rights of immigrants. Moreover, ,it isn't enough to merely believe in the value of immigrants--we must take action. We must proudly fight with them to achieve a secure life in this country.

On Original Reporting

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Managing Editor

There's this scene in "Page One: Inside The New York Times," a 2011 documentary film about the paper of record, that I can't stop thinking about.

It features David Carr, The Times' media columnist who became the paper's de facto spokesman before his death in 2015. In the scene, Carr debates the future of news with Michael Wolff, the founder of the news aggregation blog Newser.

Wolff succumbs to hyperbole in the course of their exchange, going so far as to declare that traditional news outlets who engage in original reporting are dead. Rebuking his opponent's ridiculous claim is too easy for Carr. With a grin on his face, he holds up a printout of Newser's front page and tells the audience that the blog is, in fact, a good looking website.

"But I wonder if Michael has really thought through 'get rid of mainstream media content,'" Carr says. Again, he holds up a printout of the blog's homepage, this time with every story containing information originally reported by "mainstream" outlets cut out with a pair of scissors. "Go ahead," he says, peering through a piece of paper that looks like Swiss cheese.

I think of this scene often because I keep encountering folks who either don't know or don't appreciate the value of original reporting.

For example, last month a friend asked me why people continue to subscribe to The Times when blogs like Vox and Slate post concise content online for free.

I was shocked.

Did he not understand that those websites, while important and worth reading, relied heavily on the reportage of papers like The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times et al? Could he not see that without reporters churning out copy and immersing themselves in their respective beats, most digital and television outlets would not exist?

The short answer: no, he did not. And I don't blame him. If I wasn't pursuing a career in journalism, I probably wouldn't know or care either.

And it's not just political news that's the problem. The other day, a Facebook friend of mine shared a fake article that said Charles Manson had been granted parole. I don't fault him for the mistake, the phony blog was well-designed and looked like a legitimate news organization. Perhaps we should update an old adage:

Don't judge a website by its homepage.

This is a problem, and as we continue to rely on the internet for, well, everything, we must take media literacy seriously to ensure that subsequent generations are not illiterate. The medium may be changing, but news isn't going anywhere.

Every night, I scroll through Twitter in awe watching The Times and The Post battle to break news about the president and his men and women. As a young journalist, with a compulsion to join the print media, I can't help but wonder if this is what it was like growing up in the heyday of newspapers. It reaffirms my belief that tough and true reporting will always prevail.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago when I came across a tweet by Pete Hegseth, a Trump supporter and guest host on "Fox & Friends," a morning program on Fox News. His tweet read, "Spilled my coffee this morning on [Fox & Friends]. Finally found good use for failing [New York Times]. #NotFakeNews," and included a picture of a coffee-stained Times acting as a coaster.

When I saw his tweet, I laughed because it proved David Carr's words true. Folks can trash The Times all they want, but they'll still read it. Because without it, blogs and opinion TV shows like "Fox & Friends" will have nothing to broadcast or discuss. It truly is the media kingdom with all the power.

So, will traditional media fail while fake news prevails? To paraphrase my hero Carr: hell no.

Note: A version of this column first appeared in the Addison Independent. It has been reprinted here because it is the first in a series about the future of traditional and print media.

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FEATURES

Mail Center Receives Nearly 13,000 Items Each September

By JAMES FINN
Features Editor

Each September, the student mail center sees its highest volume of incoming mail items, processing close to 13,000 packages and pieces of general mail in just one month.

These packages often containing supplies sent to students as they move in, according to Jennifer Erwin, a facilities manager.Erwin said that the center on average processes 7,000 items during the other months of the school year.

While the excess of packages poses challenges for the staff, a number of steps are taken to prepare for the back-to-school rush. Student workers are trained, special storage accommodations are made, and staff work special hours.

"We prepare for this increase in many ways," Erwin said. "We utilize the student package warehouse during September to help with processing all oversized packages such as mattress pads, bikes and TVs, thus freeing up much needed space in the mail center." The warehouse is located behind the student center on South Service Road.

Erwin said student workers also help with the rush.

"By doing their routes and helping at the window, it allows the mail center staff to focus on processing the high volume of incoming mail and packages," Erwin said. "We also work Saturday mornings during the month of September, allowing us to get a jump start on processing mail and packages that have been received on Saturday, and it allows students a window of time to pick up their packages on the weekend."

According to Erwin, a large part of keeping the mail center running smoothly during September is communicating with the student body about how to best navigate mail pickup process during the September rush.

Erwin said that students waiting to receive an email from the center and reading these emails carefully is key in keeping the pickup process running smoothly.

"We try hard to educate the student body to review the proper information which is included in their email message from the mail center to help us deliver their packages," she said. "This information being how many packages they have and what type they are."

"And we also encourage the students to wait to receive an email from the mail center and not to come down when they receive an email from the sender telling them their package has arrived," Erwin said. "Only when they receive the email from the mail center has their package been received and processed and ready to pick up."

Students generally pick up school supplies and items forgotten at home during September.

"I've picked up two packages and am expecting to get two more this week," Hannah Gokaslan '20.5 said. "They've mostly been books and stuff for my dorm that I forgot to bring with me."

Students also said that mail pickup at the center has run smoothly, despite the rise in processing in September.

"I don't think it's been that much more crowded than usual, although I went to pick up my mail on a Friday, which is always kind of busy," Gokaslan said.

Erwin said that, overall, the mail center staff looks forward to September, despite the high processing volume.

"While there is a huge increase in the volume of mail and packages, and this in itself brings challenges, we look forward to this time of year and prepare for it," she said. "We enjoy what we do and look forward to getting the packages and mail to the students in a timely manner."

AIDAN ACOSTA

Students wait in line to pick up packages from the mail center, where staff work extra hours to keep up with the annual start-of-semester surge.

Jewish Students Welcome New Year, School Year

By ELIZABETH ZHOU
Editor at Large

The Jewish community on campus and in town will observe Rosh Hashanah, a two-day celebration of the Jewish New Year from Sept. 20 to 22. Rosh Hashanah falls on the first day of Tishrei, which is a month in the Jewish calendar, and, like all Jewish holidays, it falls on a different day on the secular calendar each year.

Rabbi Danielle Stillman, the college's new associate chaplain at the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, will lead services in collaboration with Aaron Mendelsohn '95. This fall marks the twenty-fifth year that Mendelsohn has traveled to the college to sing during the ceremony. In her first Rosh Hashanah as the college rabbi, Stillman will guide community members through prayer-leading and intention-setting.

The holiday began at sundown on Wednesday, Sept. 20, and will continue until sundown on Friday, Sept. 22. Services will be held Wednesday night at 6:30 and throughout the day on Thursday.

Stillman described Rosh Hashanah as "a time of year where there's a lot of reflection over what the past year was like for you, what you want to carry forward with you into the new year, and what you'd like to change for the new year."

This year, the overlap of Rosh Hashanah and the add-drop period may create logistical complications for those seeking to attend to both academic and religious commitments. Some students take time out of their hectic back-to-school schedules to attend all or part of the services.

"Everyone does it differently depending on what their practice is and how they're feeling about their classes," Stillman said. "Students should feel free to come and go if they need to. Of course I'd love to see someone there for the whole time, but I'd rather see someone come for an hour than not at all if they have a class."

Ben Dohan '20, the rituals chair of the college's Jewish organization, Hillel, commented on the implications of the college's academic calendar on the observance of Rosh Hashanah.

"Overall, it's not too difficult to balance religious life and school," he said. "This is the one period of time where it is [hard], because the only really big celebrations we have are the High Holidays and Passover in the spring. Passover is at night, so it's really just now that it becomes difficult."

The activities fair is scheduled later than usual this year, which may make it harder for the Hillel board to reach out to Jewish first years and make them aware of the service schedule. Hillel board members conducted outreach over last week, including posting fliers in dining halls and tabling outside of Proctor.

Elana Feldman '17.5, who will observe her fourth Rosh Hashanah at the college this fall, is used to navigating the conflicting schedules of school and the High Holiday period.

"I'll get out of class a little early and go to Mead Chapel really quick and stay at the service for half an hour and go to another class," she explained. "You can tell that there are people walking in and out and doing that all day, so it makes for not necessarily the most fluid service, but I think that if people are not that observant, they're okay with doing that and it caters to that need."

In addition to services, Rosh Hashanah is celebrated through rituals such as dipping apples in honey to usher in a sweet new year; blowing the shofar, a ram's horn, to wake up individuals to the possibility of change; and consuming round challahs, a braided bread, to symbolize the calendar cycle.

As the Jewish community celebrates a new year, Stillman is also looking ahead to her first ceremony as the college rabbi and her role within the context of Middlebury.

"My vision is a really open and inclusive community where everyone, including non-Jewish students, feel like they can come and celebrate and learn about Judaism, but where Jewish students feel that they can get the particular experience of being Jewish and they have a space to explore their Jewish identity," Stillman said. "It's actually good for everyone, because I found in other campuses where I worked, when students who aren't familiar with Jewish traditions come, then the Jewish students have to think, why do we do this? And that's good for everyone, to ask those questions."

Secretary DeVos to Rollback Obama-Era Title IX Guidelines

Continued from page 1

"Due process is the foundation of any system of justice that seeks a fair outcome. Due process either protects everyone, or it protects no one," she said. "The notion that a school must diminish due process rights to better serve the 'victim' only creates more victims."

Ritter explained what a renewed emphasis on due process might entail. Due process "means notice and an opportunity to be heard," Ritter said. "The college must notify the responding party of the actual charges instead of just investigating and not letting them know what they're investigating. The respondent should also have an opportunity to present their side of the story."

"Until we know more from [DeVos], we plan to stay the course."

Karen Guttentag, a judicial affairs dean at the college, noted that DeVos' focus on due process could reflect DeVos' desire to rebalance the system.

"I think that her reference to due process is because of her overall assessment that the pendulum has swung too far in favor of complainants as a result of the directives in the Dear Colleague Letter," Guttentag said.

She explained that due process grants important rights to the respondent in sexual assault cases, including the right to tell their side of the story and the right to be informed of the nature of the charge. Guttentag also added that the College's policy for adjudicating sexual assault already grants respondents and complainants these identical rights.

In her address, DeVos identified the Obama administration's Dear Colleague Letter from 2011 as one of the main reasons why she believes the current system does not function properly. The letter, which Department of Education published to augment existing Title IX regulations, served as a reminder to colleges that lack of compliance with Title IX can lead to loss of federal funding. It also provided new guidelines, including how quickly schools need to respond to reports of assault and what information they need to provide to all parties involved in a complaint.

In an interview with CNN, DeVos said that her department had already starting rolling back guidelines set back by the letter, and she confirmed her intention to revoke the letter entirely. In her speech, DeVos echoed a common critique of the letter — that Obama administration published it as a directive, rather than go through the legislative process to turn their new guidelines into law.

"For too long, rather than engage the public on controversial issues, the Department's Office for Civil Rights has issued letters from the desks of un-elected and un-accountable political appointees," she said. She seemed to indicate she would not take the same route, adding, "The era of 'rule by letter' is over."

One potential impact of the Department of Education changing the guidelines set forth by the letter would be a change in what standard of proof schools use to rule on sexual assault cases. The letter dictated that schools' use of the "preponderance of the evidence" standard, one of the lowest burdens of proof in the U.S. legal system. The preponderance of the evidence standard says that if it is more likely than not that an assault occurred then colleges should rule that an assault occurred.

Many advocates for the accused and legal scholars have proposed changing that standard over the years, and in her speech DeVos referenced a paper from the American Trial Lawyers Association that suggests raising the standard to "clear and convincing evidence."

Proponents of the Obama-era guidelines were quick to criticize DeVos, including former Vice President Joe Biden, who called DeVos' speech a "step in the wrong direction" in a Facebook post the same day.

"Any change that weakens Title IX protections will be devastating," he said. "Students have taken on this fight. Keep fighting. Tell this administration that we refuse to go backwards."

GAGE SKIDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced her intention to revoke Obama-era guidelines on how colleges adjudicate cases of sexual assault.

Others praised DeVos for taking steps to balance the system, which some fear swung too far in favor of complainants under the Obama administration. Robert Shibley, the executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, an organization that has challenged the Dear Colleague Letter in the past, praised DeVos' speech.

"I thought it was a strong signal from the department that they understand the current approach is unworkable," Shibley said in an interview with The Washington Post.

As of now, it is unclear exactly what changes will be made to the Department of Education policy regarding Title IX sexual assault enforcement on campuses. In her address, DeVos announced her intention to gather more information from relevant groups through "a transparent notice-and-comment process" in order to improve our system.

"We will seek public feedback and combine institutional knowledge, professional expertise, and the experiences of students to replace the current approach with a workable, effective, and fair system," DeVos said.

Until definite changes to the policy are announced, Ritter said it is hard to know how DeVos' speech will affect the College's policy. However, Ritter also pointed out that our current adjudication process was modeled after the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which includes additional requirements about how campuses handle sexual assault claims. Ritter said that the provisions in this act cover some of the concerns DeVos raised about equity.

"VAWA answers, I believe, a lot of the concerns Betsy DeVos has about fairness to both parties. It's scrupulous in that regard," Ritter said. "What you do for one you have to do for the other and you have to be fair, thorough, balanced and unbiased for both sides."

According to Ritter, the College has tried to model their policy closely to VAWA in order to promote a fair process "because if you don't do that the [system] will collapse on itself," she said.

Ritter and Guttentag both said that unless the Department of Education issues or passes a policy change, they plan to keep the college's current policy in place. "Until we know more from DeVos, we plan to stay the course," Ritter said.

Center for Careers and Internships Introduces 'Handshake'

By BENJY RENTON
Contributing Writer

When finding jobs, internships and other post-college opportunities, an intuitive and accessible job-searching system is key to students' success. After experiencing drawbacks and limitations with their old platform, Mojo, the Center for Careers and Internships (CCI) has launched a new platform called Handshake, now available to all current Middlebury students.

The CCI hopes that the new system will enable students to better connect with future employers and search for opportunities tailored to their interests.

The CCI has been using Mojo for the past few years and realized that the website did not meet the diverse needs and interests of the student body.

"We were hearing a lot of concerns from students over Mojo over the number and the variety of opportunities on Mojo," commented Samantha Haimes, Assistant Director for Communications and Outreach at the CCI. Being the primary resource at the CCI, a replacement to Mojo was needed due to its lack of a mobile-friendly design and general user-friendliness.

handshake

Have you logged into Handshake?
middlebury.joinhandshake.com

Complete your profile and career interests
Handshake recommends jobs and internships based on your completed profile and interests. Start discovering opportunities you actually want!

Upload your résumé
Upload your most recent résumé and Handshake will use it to auto-fill your profile. So easy!

Make appointments with advisors
Find a day and time that works best for you and meet with a CCI advisor to explore your interests, opportunities, and search strategies.

Apply for internships and jobs—and stay on track
"Favorite" opportunities and employers to prioritize applications and never miss a deadline.

handshake

The process of switching platforms from Mojo to Handshake involved contributions from many community members, including employers, staff and students. The CCI tested a few different platforms before deciding to use a Handshake, used by many peer institutions. Last spring, representatives from Handshake came to campus, spending time with CCI staff members, students and IT staff.

"One of the students came into the office a few weeks later and said, 'Are we switching to Handshake?'" Haimes said, describing this moment as confirmation from the students that it was time to make the change.

Through focus groups, the CCI learned that students expressed interest in a new system being more user friendly and having more geographic locations where students can find internships and job opportunities. Haimes said that the system and its features look and feel similar to Facebook and LinkedIn, two platforms relatively familiar to college students. After the first week of classes, 50 percent of first-year students have already logged onto the platform, showing that it is "resonating with students," Haimes said.

The advantages of Handshake extend to employers as well. In contrast to Mojo, where employers had to create a separate profile for each school from which they would like to recruit, companies can now simply check a box to indicate that they would like to recruit from Middlebury students. This results in an increased amount of job opportunities for students, due to the ease of use for employers.

Handshake includes a wealth of intuitive features designed to assist in the job and internship searching process. For example, a user can save a job or internship search and get updates about a recently posted internship or open work position. In addition, the computer algorithm behind Handshake will display opportunities related to ones a student views or expresses interest.

"It's nice to be able yo get the information you want, care about and need. [Handshake] is agreat first virtual front door into the CCI."
SAMANTHA HAIMES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH AT THE CCI

"It's nice to be able to get the information you want, care about and need," Haimes said. She believes that Handshake will be able to better target students' career interests and goals, as well as reducing the amount of unwanted emails in students' inboxes.

In an effort to make Handshake the central hub for all the CCI's contact with students, other useful resources are also available through the platform. Students can make appointments to meet with CCI advisers directly on Handshake's website, as well as see upcoming events at the CCI. Handshake also contains a resources section, including a list of internships past Middlebury students have completed and integration with GoinGlobal, a site dedicated to finding opportunities around the globe.

Students can begin familiarizing themselves with Handshake's new features immediately.

"It's a great first virtual front door into CCI," Ms. Haimes said. Once they log in with their Middlebury email and password, students can complete their profile and upload their resumé. They can also add their career interests to help Handshake determine job and internship opportunities tailored to each individual student. Haimes and her team also recommend that students simply explore the site and its new features at go/handshake.

The CCI posts weekly tips for using Handshake on their Facebook page and Instagram feed @ middcci. Open to feedback on the new system.

The CCI is eager for students to contact them directly with their experiences. The CCI hopes searching for jobs and internships will become much easier with the introduction of Handshake.

College Offers Students $25 Credit for On-Campus Dining Options

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Features Editor

Considerable dining changes came this year. Dan Detora, the college's food service director, highlighted menu changes and renovations in on campus food venues including Wilson Cafe, Rehearsals Cafe and Midd Express. In an all-student email sent on Sept. 5, Detora reminded students that a $25 declining balance was added on their IDs. The balance, which can be used at any of the college's retail locations, comes alongside the swipe system that was implemented in dining halls.

One of the retail locations, Wilson's Cafe at the library, has updated its menu to include upscale bagel sandwiches. This change was made possible through the addition of a deli counter over the summer. Students can buy breakfast or lunch sandwiches, or purchase plain toasted bagels served with varieties of cream cheese, butter or jam. Breakfast sandwiches include options with fried eggs and cheese, while the "More than an Average Joe" sandwich allows customers to add their choice of meat. Lunch sandwich items include the "Los Pescado," which contains lox, crushed avocado, capers and tomato. The "Bulldozer" is served with roast beef, lettuce, tomato, onion, Swiss cheese and horseradish.

Rehearsals Cafe, located at the Mahaney Center for the Arts, also underwent renovations, and expanded its menu to include juices, smoothies, and recovery shakes. Its hours of operation have extended to 10 p.m., allowing potential customers to finish their workouts at the nearby fitness center before heading over for food. Juices include the "Eye Opener," which contains apple, carrot, mango and lime.

MiddExpress, the campus convenience store, is the third location the college renovated this summer. The store has reconfigured its shelves and will now be stocked with "F'real" milkshakes, which are premade and ready for purchase.

"The motivation was to offer more options and variety to students beyond the dining halls," Detora said. "As you know, the dining halls are very crowded during meal periods, so we felt that by expanding the offerings in the retail areas it would reduce that pressure."

Many students are excited to spend the $25 credit they received this semester, which can be used both at the renovated locations and at the Grille and Crossroads Cafe.

"The $25 is really useful, and a change that I didn't expect," Christian Chiang '20 said. "Besides that, I'm pretty content with the current dining options on campus."

Asked about his plans for spending his $25 balance, Chiang said, "The Grille is really helpful, since it's always open at later times in the night. But since the credit works at most places on campus, I wouldn't be surprised if I tried something else."

Detora clarified that the $25 balance on each student's ID card will carry over from semester to semester. He added that if students want to add more funds to their card, they can do so through middlebury.campuscardcenter.com.

AIDAN ACOSTA

Students can spend their $25 credit on any of the multiple dining options on campus, including Crossroads Cafe (pictured above).

S.O.S. Fest Touches Emotions on Campus

By MARIA BOBBITT-CHERTOCK
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 15, WRMC and Middlebury College Activities Board hosted Middlebury's annual S.O.S. ("Start of School") Fest on the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts front lawn. The free concert featured Middlebury singer-songwriter Rubby '18 and Chicago-based poet-rapper Noname.

Opening act Rubby's cheekbones loomed over the crowd. His features seemed hand-crafted for the stage — beneath the lights, they looked suprahuman. Consequently, he pulled off a cool delivery without seeming aloof. He, unlike many performers, did not need to forge a stage presence via gimmickry or superfluous movement. The crowd knew Rubby was the frontman before he stepped toward the mic. Once front and center, he commanded attention even while remaining still.

Backed by a full band of other Middlebury musicians, Rubby sang his two singles ("Confiesa" and "Know Me") in a smooth, vibrato-laden croon. Audience members shouted along to "Confiesa" in drunken, mostly inaccurate Spanish. But the noise did not bother Rubby, whose intonation remained as steady as if he were performing in a reverb-heavy cathedral. If at any moment the stage intimidated him, it did not show.

"There were so many people," Rubby said after the concert. "The lights were amazing, and Noname's stage was incredible. It's definitely my favorite performance so far at Middlebury."

The turn-out was remarkable — over a thousand people — and remarkably animated, especially for a student opener. Even more people filtered in as the stage was prepped for Noname.

Just minutes later, Noname strode out dressed in sneakers and a jean jacket, an outfit reminiscent of the '90s fashion she described nostalgically in her first song, "Diddy Bop." A bit jarringly, no one in her band sung the hook — instead, she invited the crowd to sing it, a less-than-fitting substitute for Cam O'bi, the recorded track's featured artist. But when the crowd shouted the lyric "Ooh, you about to get your ass beat!" with her, she smiled,

Noname's final song made her objective clear: to remind us that we can find resilience in the childlike sensibiliy that memory revives.

and in that moment, the song landed perfectly and its playful mood hit home.

But some of the audience commandeered this mood, driving it in a more juvenile, masculine direction — or, to be less generous but likely more accurate, they construed Noname's genre as an excuse to act out. Some yelled at her, others pushed through the crowd provokingly. Soon Noname had to pause and address a young man who drunkenly tried to take the stage.

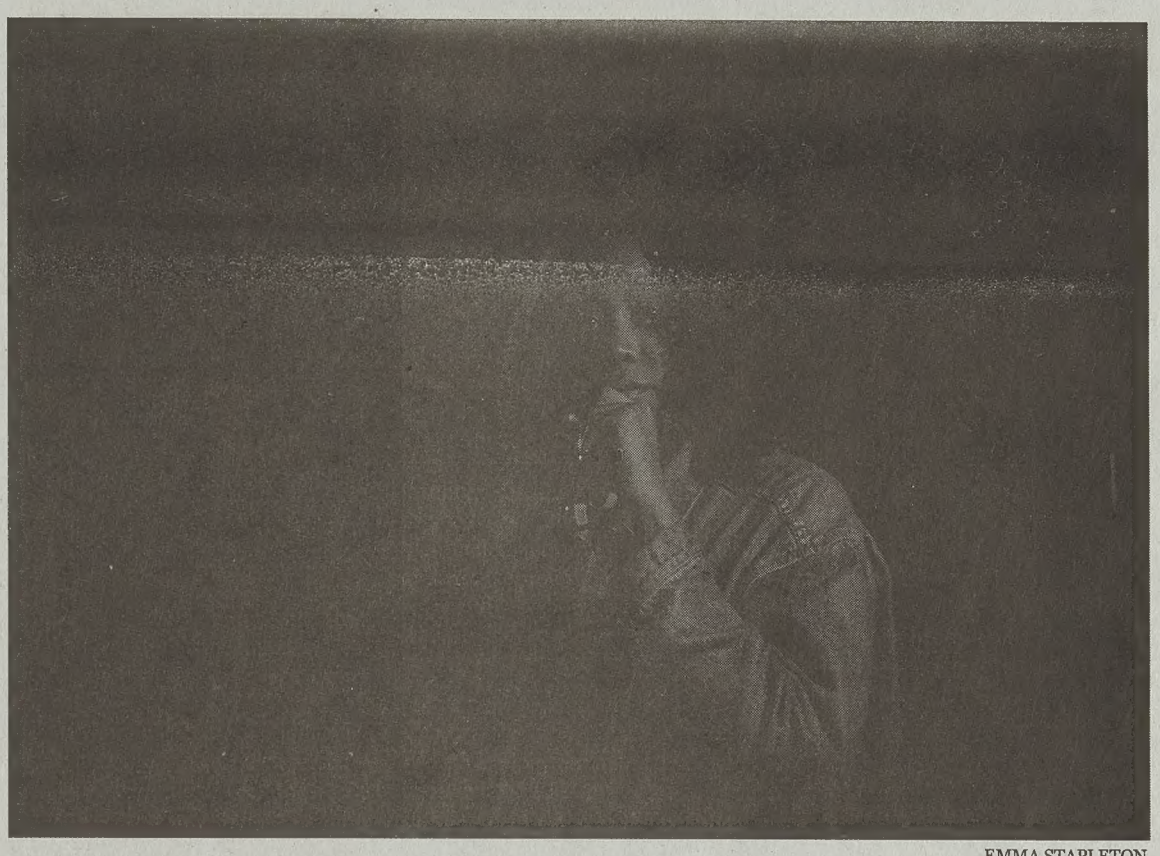
"I said, 'Sing along,' not 'Climb up onto the stage,'" she said. The audience laughed, though Noname was sincerely — and rightly — annoyed.

Noname addressed the crowd again before "Casket Pretty," the thematic centerpiece of her album Telefone. (The refrain: "I hope that you make it home, / I hope to God that my tele' don't ring.") The track concerns police brutality, and its deceptively cheerful beat emphasizes the irony of a "happy city" corrupted by violence. Hence, she asked the audience to quiet down and recall their privilege. She asked, justly, for the opportunity to share both an imperative political message and a story of personal trauma. However, white crowd members in the back continued to shout and, even more disappointingly, twerk. When she finished the song, she expressed her frustration, but thanked those in the front for being respectful.

For the rest of the show, she directed her energy toward the front of the crowd. At one point, she even rapped an entire verse with a man in the second row who knew all the words. This cheered her, and her performance stayed even and self-assured through the closer, "Yesterday."

Overall, she gave a brilliant set. Her delivery was as compelling as it was consistent, and her final song — Telefone's first track — made clear her objective of reminding us that we can find resilience in the childlike sensibility that memory revives. Though certain disruptive crowd members were (ironically) too immature to feel her message's weight, others went home spiritually invigorated and perhaps abler to face our dismal political climate in the morning.

Stay tuned for an open letter from the WRMC executive board regarding S.O.S. Fest.



EMMA STAPLETON
Noname's music shows a refreshingly different side of the typically male-dominated hip-hop genre.

EMMA STAPLETON
Rubby performed his two singles, "Confiesa" and "Know Me."

EMMA STAPLETON
Noname played with the audience, sometimes inviting them to sing along.

Bandaloop Soars

'Vertical Dance Group' Stun and Delights

By SARAH BOYLE
Staff Writer

This weekend the vertical dance troupe Bandaloop celebrated its return to the Middlebury community as a part of the Mahaney Center of the Arts 25th anniversary. The gravity-defying group, which includes alumnus Mark Stuver '97.5, returned to the college after their last performance in 2004. Viewers were able to experience Bandaloop's unique performances at the Mahaney Center for the Arts plaza.

Bandaloop blends circus art, athleticism, and dance to create their dazzling performances. Using ropes and pulley systems, the dancers are able to fly across walls and fall through mid-air in an act that is fresh and awe-inspiring.

Company member Roel Seeber loves that his movements have a "perceived weightlessness" about them. What makes Bandaloop special for him is that they are able to "bring dance to people who would never see it," because their stages are public buildings. Seeber also loves this medium because in a world of smart phones and a tendency to disconnect from our environments, Bandaloop allows people to look up to the sky with wonder.

The troupe was formed in 1991 by Amelia Rudolph and is currently based in the San Francisco area. The thrilling medium of dance that the group is known for alters the way that dance is viewed, bringing it outside and to different communities. The company has traveled to over 17 countries throughout the world to give people new experiences with performance art and the emotions it can evoke in us.

The group places a great deal of emphasis on education, so they hold classes in their local area. Accordingly, Middlebury students were able to try out this exhilarating form of dance through vertical dance workshops at Virtue Field House run by troupe members. Stuver also gave a talk about his dance and entertainment career, serving as an inspiration for all dance and theatre majors of the college.

Mark Stuver's long and impressive dance journey started at Middlebury. Growing up in rural Colorado, he said he "did not have much access to culture" such as dance, but decided to try the art form when striking up a conversation with one of the department's professors at class registration. Professors such as Penny Campbell helped formulate Stuver's dance experience at the college, and gave him "an understanding of the creative process."

While at the college, Stuver performed in various college dance troupes and choreographed a duet that was featured at the Kennedy Center for the American College Dance Festival.

After graduating from Middlebury with a major in Dance, he joined Bandaloop and began to tour the world with their company, filling up three passports in the process. From Saudi Arabia to South America, he and his fellow dancers have been able to bring their passion for dance around the globe.

Stuver says that the biggest takeaway for him during this time was not how similar everyone is across the world, but how different and "unknown" to him everyone was. Dance was a way to bring all of these differences together "embrace the unknown in others" and allow others to "embrace the unknown" in him.

However, after many years of performing with the troupe, Stuver has decided it is time to move on from high-flying performances and move on to quieter roles in writing.

His final show with Bandaloop was on Saturday, an experience he described as "walking into the past." To begin and end (for now) his dance journey in the same place, to him, is "very potent."

Stuver has a lot to work with in the world outside of dance. He has worked as a puppeteer at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, performed on the Late Show with David Letterman and the Late Late Show with James Corden, written various screenplays, and acted in short films.

A true Middlebury grad through and through, he has varied interests and even holds a Master's degree in Jungian psychology. Through his time working as a therapist he realized that the best way for him to help people is through storytelling, which is where his career is headed now.

Through Bandaloop's memorable performances this weekend and Stuver's wide-ranging and fruitful career in the arts, Middlebury students have great examples of the creative possibilities that await them in the years after graduation.

SILVIA CANTU-BAUTISTA
The dance troupe last came to the college in 2004.

SILVIA CANTU-BAUTISTA
Whimsical acrobatics by the Bandaloop crew inspired and entertained.

IMDB
Mark Stuver '17.5.

DON'T MISS THIS

VSO "Made in Vermont" Tour

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra stops at Middlebury on its Made in Vermont Statewide Tour. The concert program will include Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, Gluck's "Dance of the Furies" from Orfeo, Britten's Simple Symphony, and the new work Breath by Vermont composer Paul Dedell. Tickets $25/10/free.

9/23, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robinson Hall

Dafra Kura Band

Hailing from Burkina Faso, the Dafra Kura Band fuses the high energy of the griot ancestral tradition and the contemporary sounds of modern African cities sourced from Manding tradition, nomad desert blues, and Afrobeat. Tickets: $10/10/6.

9/26, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., McCullough Student Center, Wilson Hall

Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project

The Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso- and Philadelphia-based group presents "Declassified Memory Fragment," a dance theatre work with live music, inspired by memory, history and images of the political and cultural realities currently affecting the continent of Africa. Tickets: $22/16/6.

9/29, Friday, 9/30, Saturday, 8 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Dance Theatre

Reel Critic: 'It' Terrifies

By DEVIN MCGRATH-CONWELL
Senior Columnist

All is not well in Derry, Maine. Luckily for those of us from Maine, Derry does not actually exist.

"It," published in 1986, has already seen one adaptation, in the form of a 1990 miniseries with Tim Curry taking up the mantle of the clown, Pennywise. Twenty-seven years later, Andres Muschietti brings "It" (2017) to the big-screen to introduce a new generation of filmgoers to King's manic clown.

The film opens on brothers Bill (Jaeden Lieberher) and Georgie (Jackson Robert Scott). It is a stormy day, and Bill lovingly assembles a paper boat for his brother. Muschietti follows each fold and crease, and it is a truly beautiful piece of filmmaking, and emblematic of much of his style. He lingers on small details, here and when it comes to the scenes of horror later, such as an exceptionally inventive bit where a painting comes to life to hunt one of the children. He shows off the lush production design that went into making Derry and it's characters come to life.

Muschietti, particularly in this opening sequence, charges his images with ideas of innocence and the subsequent loss of it. As Bill puts the finishing touches on the boat, called the "S.S. Georgie," he sends his brother to the basement to fetch the wax so the boat will float. Standing at the top of the dark basement steps, Georgie utters a line which is as much for him as it is an ethos for the audience: "Be brave."

Brave we must be, for after Georgie brings the wax and Bill completes the boat, it is out into the rain for the little boy. The camera follows him and the boat down the street until it is swept into the gutter, and we are brought to the films most controversial scene. Here, Georgie meets Pennywise the Clown (Bill Skarsgård), an introduction he does not survive.

It is a brutal and deeply disturbing scene, but I believe it is necessary to understand the core function of the film. The beauty of the opening moments set up the profound connection between brothers, and so we are able to conceive of the story as Bill's reckoning with the grief of losing Georgie, and the overarching loss of innocence that accompanies such a discovery. It is Bill who inspires his friends, known collectively as "the Losers Club," to investigate what happened to Georgie, and therefore leads them to Pennywise.

A story about childhood does not succeed without a talented cast of children, and "the Losers Club" is that and more. There is an immediate chemistry between Bill, Richie (Finn Wolfhard), Bev (Sophia Lillis), Ben (Jeremy Ray Taylor), Eddie (Jack Dylan Grazer), Stanley (Wyatt Oleff) and Mike (Chosen Jacobs). Wolfhard is now well-known as Mike Wheeler on Netflix's "Stranger Things" (2016–), and it is refreshing to see him play a more energetic and comedic character here. They are not all great performers, but as an ensemble they lift each other up, never losing the necessary energy.

The standouts in the cast are Lillis and Taylor. Taylor's character, Ben, is the "new kid," but it is whose research into Derry's mythos brings a greater understanding of the town's menace. Taylor is a scene-stealer in ways both comical and dramatic, but it is really Lillis who stays with you. It is through her story that we fully understand a second vital aspect of the plot: No matter what Pennywise conjures, reality can hold demons much more menacing. Ultimately, the rag-tag band of "the Losers Club" find themselves combating evils natural and demonic.

The screenplay slowly reveals more of the kids' backgrounds, finding ways to take each of their deepest fears, which Pennywise exploits, and have them overcome it. A refrain by the "Losers" is "it's not real." They fight to recognize that fear is only in their minds, and if they can battle it than they can vanquish it, be it demonic or human in nature.

Regardless, King's story is nothing without its monster, and what Skarsgård brings to the performance of Pennywise is truly, deeply unsettling. When Tim Curry first brought the role to life in 1990, it was a rather campy affair. Watching it now, the terror is undercut by rather unintended humor. That is never a problem in this new production. Aided by a remarkable team of special effects technicians, the many forms and appearances of Pennywise permeate the film with a constant stream of dread. You never quite know when he'll pop up, or how he'll look when he does. Muschietti is not remarkably inventive with his jump scares, and fills his film with many of the tropes one would expect in a monster movie, but it is nevertheless terrifying. I challenge you to sit through Pennywise's introduction without trying to shrink into your seat away from the creature.

IMPAWARDS

"It" is playing at the Marquis.

As a horror movie, Muschietti has done nothing to reinvent the wheel. The jump scares, as noted, are all rather well-trod. They do their job, but unlike this year's brilliant "Get Out" (2017), there is no freshness to them. But, fresh or not, watching a nightmarish creature appear from the darkness is effective. Benjamin Wallfisch provides an extraordinary score that at times evokes both his mentor Hans Zimmer as well as John Williams, but Muschietti relies on the screech of violins to telegraph fear at times when more inventive direction would have made the sound cue unnecessary.

Even so, the film succeeds in telling a truly moving story of grief and redemption. From the start, Georgie is linked to the imagery of his bright yellow raincoat. He is wearing it when he is taken by Pennywise, and at each moment that the thing attempts to attack Bill, the imagery of Georgie and that raincoat factor in. When we reach the films climax in the heart of Pennywise's lair, it is less the floating children that stick with you, but the image of Bill finding his brother's torn raincoat. It was our entrance into this world, and it is the heart of the films urgency. There are unspeakable evils in Derry, but it is the undying love between brothers, and then friends, that give hope to the "Losers."

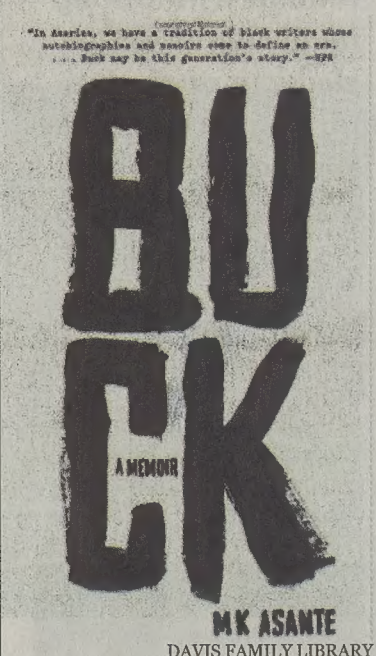
The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Contributing Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices. "While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

Pages: 252

Buck: A Memoir
MK Asante


"In America, we have a tradition of black writers whose autobiographies and memoirs come to define an era. . . . Buck may be this generation's story." —NPR
BUCK
A MEMOIR
MK ASANTE

DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

The What:

Buck is a young black man's tale about growing up in 1990s Philadelphia with a doggedly Afrocentric father and a mother who suffers from mental illness. Between his father's absenteeism and his mother's psychiatric needs, Asante struggles to access the guidance and stability to thrive as a teenager en route to manhood. The work is laced with hip-hop lyrics and visits the many dangers that a number of African American boys, both expertly and falteringly, dodge on the way to becoming self-actualizing members of society.

The Why:

I met the author of this text more than 10 years ago in Los Angeles when he was working on a film degree at UCLA. I follow his career periodically and want to critically review his work for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's (BCALA) newsletter, "BCALA News." This work, like Junot Díaz's "This Is How You Lose Her," provokes an examination of black masculinity — which is of regular interest to me and many others, particularly in light of rapper Jay-Z's "4:44" release — and how it can be shaped by conditions and cultures found within many urban landscapes throughout the U.S.

Rating: 3/5 cardigans

The story is a unique, important and inspirational one, often left untold and/or lost to the streets. Many young black men growing up in similar environments need this narrative to know that their tales do not end at age 15. However, while the interpositions of hip-hop lyrics used to reflect the unity between the popular musical genre and the protagonist's life ring genuine, at times, instead of serving the novel and its movement, they distract from it. Moreover, the author may have benefited from putting a greater number of years and a few additional measures of perspective between himself and his memoir. The resolutions of his problems seem trite, as those seen in afterschool television specials — the tidy deus ex machina a bit too convenient to feel real.

Professor Earns $2.1 Million Research Grant

By CAROLINE JASCHKE
Contributing Writer

This summer, Dr. Grace Spatafora, professor of biology department, was awarded a $2.1 million National Institutes of Health grant for her research on the oral bacterium, Streptococcus mutans. The grant makes her one of only 13 faculty members at small liberal arts colleges nationwide to receive an NIH research project grant, known as an RO1 grant. The majority are awarded to large research-intensive universities.

Streptococcus mutans is a bacterium that lives in the oral cavity, where it is the primary cause of dental cavities. Although S. mutans can promote cavities as well as contribute to the progression of periodontal disease, it is a natural part of our oral microbiome and is just as vital to our health as our gut microbiome.

Oral health is generally considered the gateway to overall health; a diseased mouth can have dire consequences for the rest of the body.

"The condition of one's mouth says a lot about where that person is on the socioeconomic scale and what kind of overall health they're in. If we can improve access to oral health and hygiene practices for all, then we can improve general health and lessen the gap between the haves and the haves-not," Spatafora said.

S. mutans adheres to teeth and metabolizes carbohydrates consumed in the diet via the process of fermentation. Acid, a product of fermentation, drills holes in teeth, marking the onset of tooth decay. There is, however, a difference between healthy plaque and diseased plaque.

Spatafora describes her research as "centered on the genetic mechanisms that help maintain healthy plaque, and which involves a delicate balance between healthy microbes and disease-causing microbes."

Maintaining the healthy plaque requires multiple factors including healthy diet and good oral hygiene. The high sugar content of the Western diet, however, provides S. mutans with an abundance of nutrients that get converted to acid. This acid production lowers the pH in the mouth, tipping the balance in favor of diseased plaque with a prevalence of acid-producing and acid-tolerant microbes.

To understand how we might be able to control this delicate homeostasis, Spatafora's lab is examining SloR, a protein in S. mutans that is responsible for the regulation of metal ion transport. "By restricting access of S. mutans to essential metals, such as manganese and iron, [SloR] receives neither too many micronutrients nor too few, keeping its prevalence in the mouth in check."

For example, when we eat, our food introduces large amounts of manganese and iron into the mouth, in addition to sugar. S. mutans can absorb these metal ions through membrane-associated transporters, thereby allowing SloR to interact with the ions. The interaction permits SloR to bind to DNA and repress an excess of metal ion uptake, which could otherwise be toxic for the S. mutans. At the same time, SloR-metal ion complexes modulate the damaging characteristics of S. mutans, such as its ability to adhere to teeth, produce acid, and resist the negative effects of acid and oxidative stress.

"By manipulating SloR-metal ion complexes and their interaction with DNA, we can also manipulate the disease-causing potential of S. mutans," Spatafora said.

COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

Prof. Spatafora and Sunho Park '18 research tooth decay-causing bacteria.

Ultimately, Spatafora hopes to "develop a therapeutic intervention that will target SloR so that S. mutans-induced cavities can be alleviated or prevented altogether."

Spatafora first started working on S mutans in 1989 after pursuing her interest in infectious diseases and microbial pathogenesis in Dr. Roy Curtiss' laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis. There, Curtiss introduced her to S. mutans, a bacterium that not many people were working with at the time. She was drawn to the microorganism because of the opportunities it provided for experimental manipulation and the ability to work on this project with a small group of graduate students and highly trained post-docs.

Professor Spatafora is one of only 13 faculty members at small liberal arts colleges to receive an NIH research project grant.

Now, Spatafora offers incredible research opportunities to Middlebury students such as Annie Cowan '18.

"Professor Spatafora wants you to lead your own project and so you end on the same level in terms of knowing where the project is going and what to do in terms of moving forward. I think the most rewarding part is identifying where your mistake is yourself and then figuring out how to fix it," said Cowan of her time working in Spatafora's lab.

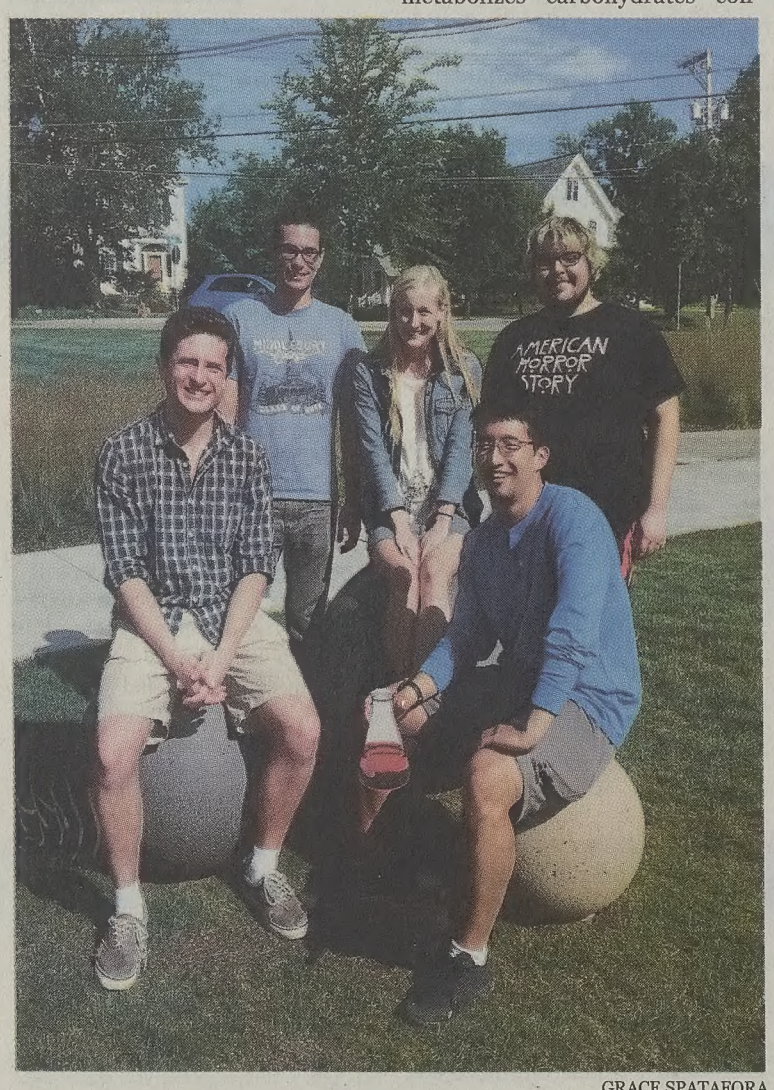
Cowan has been working on a project verifying a region of DNA that could promote synthesis of SloR. The region was identified last year by Patrick Monette '17, who is currently preparing a manuscript about the findings, in hopes of being published.

Another of Spatafora's lab students, Sunho Park '18 (known as the lab clown), has been conducting experiments to find protein binding partners of SloR.

Park says, "Once we know what other proteins it binds to, then maybe we can investigate the binding partners, which would allow us to learn more about SloR indirectly from a different angle," Park said.

Hopefully, this could one day allow us to utilize SloR to maintain the homeostasis of our mouths and lead to preventing cavities.

Thanks to the five-year National Institutes of Health grant, students of the college will continue to receive funding for these extraordinary research opportunities through 2022.



GRACE SPATAFORA

Middlebury students assisting Professor Spatafora gather for a photo.

SPORTS

Men's Soccer Lives Life on the Edge

Panthers Edge Out Defending Nescac Champion Amherst, and Hamilton, in 1–0 Thrillers Last Weekend

RUGBY'S WINNING WAYS

Rugby begins fall campaign with 46–0 shutout win over St. Michael's.

B2

GOLF EYES OCTOBER

Golf teams tune up in annual Invitationals with Nescacs fast approaching.

B3

WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS

Women's soccer notched two wins over the past weekend.
B3

A puzzled Hamilton defender reacts after Jed Sass '18 scores the lone goal in the Panthers' 1-0 victory in a Nescac tilt last Sunday.

By RILEY PLANT
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team (4–1–0, 2–1–0) added two wins to their name in what was a doubleheader weekend last week with two big 1–0 victories over Nescac foes: No. 10 Amherst on Saturday, Sept. 16, and over Hamilton on Sunday, Sept. 17. As the Panthers extended their win streak to three games, coach David Saward surpassed the 350-win mark, moving his career record to 351–120–59. Jed Sass '18 scored the lone goal in both games and goalkeeper Jeremy Yeager '18 notched his first two shutouts of the season.

During their conference road match with Amherst (1–1–0, 1–1–0) on Saturday, the first 51 minutes were a defensive battle. Each team only managed two shots on goal. Eventually, however, Amherst slipped and issued a foul which resulted in a direct kick opportunity from the top of the penalty area for Sass. The senior captain ripped a left-bending shot into the corner past the hands of Amherst goalkeeper Lee Owen to notch what would prove to be the game winner.

In the 76th minute, Drew Goulart '20 had an opportunity to cushion the lead with a close range shot, but was denied by Amherst goalie, Michael Stone, who had just been substituted in for Owen.

In an 89th minute attempt to match Middlebury's goal, an Amherst throw in ended up in the Middlebury net, but was ruled invalid as the ball failed to touch another player before crossing the goal line.

Middlebury returned home on Sunday to meet Hamilton (3–2–1, 1–2–0). The previous time the teams had met was when the Continentals defeated the Panthers 2–1 in last season's Nescac semifinals. But Sunday's game went differently.

Another unassisted goal by Sass and four saves from Yeager led the team to redemption.

While quality shots were infrequent in the first half, Hamilton's Aidan Wood nearly netted a goal in the 14th minute. Wood's initial eight yard shot was knocked away by Yeager to his left, where Hamilton's Jefri Schmidt gobbled up the rebound and sent a subsequent point blank shot into the hands of Yeager.

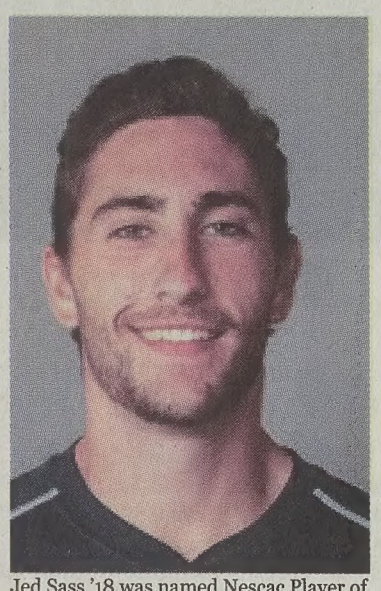
Five minutes into the second half, Wood would have another chance as he sent a right-side bending ball from 15 yards away, but was again denied by the diving Panther goalie, who was just able to punch the shot away.

In the 54th minute, Middlebury midfielder Sass one-touched a torching shot into the post off a bouncing ball in the Hamilton penalty area. He found the rebound at the six-yard line and tapped it in, pushing the Panthers ahead 1–0, where the score would remain.

"Losing our opening Nescac game to Connecticut College put us in a position where both matches against Amherst and Hamilton were essentially must-wins if we were realistically going to put ourselves in a position compete for the Nescac title," Sass said. "The challenge for us now is to bring out the same fight every time we cross those white lines. These wins were two massive steps in the right direction and leave us hungry for more."

Middlebury will continue on their journey to a Nescac title when they are back in action in Brunswick, Maine, on Saturday to take on Bowdoin (4–1–0, 2–1–0).

SASS GETS PLAYER OF THE WEEK RECOGNITION



Jed Sass '18 was named Nescac Player of the Week after he scored the two decisive goals in the Panthers' victories last weekend. He found the back of the net in the 76th minute against Amherst and in the 54th against Hamilton.

Football Notches Season-Opening Victory Over Wesleyan, Holds on to Win 30-27

By SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ
Sports Editor

In a contest that came down to the final minutes of play, the football team took its season opener against the Wesleyan Cardinals 30–27 on Saturday, Sept. 16.

The opening minutes of the game was studded with excitement as Middlebury scored on the opening drive. Starting quarterback Jared Lebowitz '18 connected with Frank Cosolito '19 on a 10-yard pass, which Cosolito took 60 yards into the Panther end zone. Middlebury missed the extra point, giving the hosts a 6–0 advantage.

Wesleyan answered with a 52-yard touchdown of its own and made its extra point giving the Cardinals a 7–6 lead. It would, however, be short lived. Jimmy Martinez '19 bobbed and weaved through Wesleyan tacklers on the ensuing kickoff to give the Panthers a 13–7 lead. Martinez, who holds five track and field school records, caught the ball at the four-yard line and returned it 96 yards for a Middlebury touchdown.

"Jimmy's house call was a huge moment for the entire team," Jourdon Delerme-Brown '19 said. "It was an electric moment on the sidelines for sure. Everybody, offensive, defensive, tackles and D-backs, were super energized."

Martinez did not stop there. Late in the first quarter, Lebowitz connected with Martinez three times, including a 25-yard touchdown pass-and-catch to give the Panthers a 20–7 lead. Lebowitz, who finished the game 22–44 for 352 total yards, continued to dominate the passing game.

While the hosts were unable to score, their defense held the Cardinals to one score in the second quarter. Leading by seven at the half, the Panthers looked to come out firing in the second half.

Middlebury only scored once in the third quarter. Unable to find their earlier offensive connections, the Panthers were forced to settle for a 23-yard field goal by Carter Massengill '19. His field goal would prove to be decisive by the end of the contest as Middlebury would win by three.

In the opening minutes of the fourth, Lebowitz connected with Conrado Banky '19 for two passes, before hitting Maxim Bochman '20 on the 25-yard route to give the Panthers a 30–13 advantage. Wesleyan, however, was quick to answer. Eighty-four yards and six plays later, the Cardinals had marched down the field, scored a touchdown and sealed the extra point. Trailing by 10, Wesleyan recovered an onside kick to swing the momentum of the contest and with 3:15 remaining on the clock, Wesleyan scored.

The Panthers, however, did not lose their composure, even after they were unable to score off a short kickoff and had to punt. Wesleyan started from its own 39-yard line. With the season opener on the line, someone needed to change the momentum and put Middlebury on top.

Bobby Ritter '19 answered with a interception on the first play of the drive. From the stands, it seemed that he had just broken up the pass, but suddenly a roar erupted through the crowd as Ritter sprinted towards the Panther endzone. Though he was tackled short of the goal line, the game was all but won at that point.

"Bobby's pick restored life back in our side and got everyone's energy levels back to 100 percent" said Diego Meritus, who was sidelined on Saturday's game due to a quad injury. "They had just scored on us and started eating away at our lead. But Bobby's pick really brought us back to where we needed to be."

Wesleyan was unable to score in the final 40 seconds, completing Middlebury's first victory of the season. Meritus further weighed in on the success of his team.

"We knew everyone would have to contribute in order for us to place ourselves in a position to win and I think that much was clear on Saturday," Meritus said. "We had guys playing positions they don't usually play and making big plays and that made a huge difference.

"More importantly, we matched Wesleyans physically and intensity," the third year running back said. "Everyone knows them around the league as intense and physical, but clearly we did not back down from them and we came out with a win."

The Panthers' big showdown with Amherst on Oct. 7 is fast approaching, but they will be back in action before that this Saturday as they take on Bowdoin in Brunswick, Maine.

WOMEN'S TENNIS LOOKS FORWARD TO NEXT CHANCE WITH WILLIAMS

By ANDREW RIGAS
Sports Editor

In Nescac and NCAA women's tennis, the road runs through Williamstown, Massachusetts. The Ephs have won five of the last seven Nescac championships and eight of the last 10 national championships. The Middlebury women's tennis team traveled to Williamstown to compete against Wellesley, Skidmore and Williams in the annual Lindsay Morehouse Invitational on Sept. 15 to 17.

Williams was Middlebury's kryptonite last season, defeating the Panthers in the Nescac and NCAA championships en route to winning both. And once again, the Ephs proved to be Middlebury's toughest competition, as the Panthers only losses came at the rackets of the Ephs in the round robin tournament where no team was crowned winner at the end of the weekend.

On Friday, the Middlebury doubles pairs of Catherine Blazye '20 and Maddi Stow '20 and Katherine Hughes '20 and Skylar Schossberger '20 took down two Williams pairs. Blazye and Stow defeated Juli Raventos, Williams' top player last season, and Sasha Cayward 8–6, while Hughes and Schossberger beat Julia Cancio and Emily Zheng, Williams' No. 3 doubles pair last season, 8–4.

Hughes and Schossberger were Middlebury's top doubles pair last season, going 10–4 in that spot but losing to a Williams pair all three times they played.

Singles competition started on Saturday, and the Panthers won all twelve singles matches that they played against Wellesley and Skidmore. Hughes, Schossberger, Molly Paradies '19 and Emily Bian '21 each won twice, while Blazye, Stow, Heather Boehm '20 and Ann Martin Skelly '21 each got one win.

The battle with Williams in doubles continued on Saturday, but the Ephs got the best of the Panthers the second time around, taking three of four matches. The first-year pair of Bian and Skelly earned the only win for the Panthers with an 8–5 victory.

Doubles competition proved easier on Sunday as the Panthers swept Skidmore in four matches.

Middlebury matched up with Williams in singles for the first time on Sunday. Williams won four of the six matches, but once again it was a battle as four of the six matches also went into third-set superbreakers. Blazye defeated Raventos, a three-time first team all-Nescac honoree, after losing the first set, 5–7, 6–3, 11–9. Stow added the other victory by knocking off Cancio, whom she lost to twice last season, 6–4, 4–6, 10–7.

Middlebury returns to Williams for the ITA Regional Championships on Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Men's Rugby Kicks Off Season With Wins

By EMILY BUSTARD
Sports Editor

The men of the Middlebury College Rugby Club (MCRC) kicked off their season last Saturday, Sept. 19, with a pair of victories over Saint Michael's College. Middlebury's A-side team held the Purple Knights to a 46–0 shutout, while the B-side fought for a 10–7 triumph in their shortened 15s nail-biter.

Alex Hogenhuis '19 led the charge for the Panthers when he scored the first try of the A-side game. A few minutes later, Lukas Ceseña '19 caught a kick by co-captain Cooper Babbitt '18.5 that he was able to run in for a try.

"We essentially scored early and often, so by halftime [Saint Michael's] was pretty tired," co-captain Ben Manoukian '18.5 said of the A-side game. "We were able to exploit their defense and maintain possession for a lot of the game."

Collaborating on a run, Kwame Mukasa '19 and Munya Munyati '20 got the ball off to Michael Hayes '20, who was able to score in his first A-side start.

Amani Core '18 soon found success on a dynamic line break, which he passed to Trevor Hopkins '20 for yet another try, which Munyati followed with a two-point conversion.

A few plays later, the ball made its way out of the scrum, to Mukasa who touched it down in the try zone. Munyati finished the play with another conversion.

Next, Hopkins turned the corner for another "cheeky" in his first A-side start.

Manoukian had a big try in the corner after a big line break by Mukasa, who also rounded out the score to 46–0 with his second try of the game.

As a newcomer to the Rugby Northeast conference, MCRC sees this season as an opportunity to improve its 12th place position in the Division II national rankings.

"This year our goal is to focus on each play and each game as it comes, [to] take things piece by piece and work towards our goal of making it far into the playoffs," Manoukian '18.5 said.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, Middlebury will travel to Rhode Island to play Providence College.

Women's Soccer Notches Two Weekend Wins

By ROB ERICKSON
Sports Editor

After a heartbreaking loss against Connecticut College to open conference play a week ago, the Middlebury women's soccer team got its season back on track with a pair of thrilling Nescac contests this past weekend. On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Panthers travelled to Amherst to square off against a Mammoth team that came into the weekend ranked 12th in the country; rising to the occasion, Middlebury was able to come away with a 2–1 victory. The team wasted no time hopping on the bus and shipping back home, where they hosted the Hamilton Continentals the following Sunday, Sept. 17. Although they trailed 1–0 until the 88th minute, the Panthers found a way to get on the board as the clock wound down and force the game into extra minutes. After two hard-fought overtimes, the game concluded in a 1–1 tie.

With four points total from the weekend (the win counting for three and the tie for one), the Panthers now share fourth place in the conference standings with the Continentals.

Back Clare Robinson '19, who had a key goal on a set piece in the Amherst game, felt good about where the team stood at the end of the weekend, all things considered. "I think our team did very well this weekend," she concluded. "Since it was a doubleheader, saving our energy and our legs definitely was a priority. Four points from the weekend is a really good outcome in Nescac play."

That's not to say she didn't think the team had room to improve, though. "There were really good moments in our team's performance in both games," she explained, "but I think as a whole we wished we had capitalized on more of our chances. In both games we went down 0–1 in the first half, and we had to fight really hard throughout the entire game to come back and get the win on Saturday and the tie on Sunday."

Against the Mammoths, that deficit came quite unexpectedly when Amherst laced a shot from 40 yards out that bounced over the head of keeper Ursula Alwang '20 to open the scoring. Aside from that, however, Alwang was an absolute wall in front of the goal. Even though Amherst finished with twice as many shots on target (eight to Middlebury's four), she was able to keep the ball from finding the back of the net for the rest of the game, finishing with six saves on the day.

Meanwhile, the Middlebury offense was able to create just enough opportunities to equalize the score and eventually turn the game in their favor. In the 44th minute, the Panthers found a little family connection. Robinson recounted the sequence afterwards: "Since we went down early in the first half, that definitely gave Amherst a little bit of momentum. I came in halfway through the half and really wanted to help my team come back to tie the game.

"With a few minutes left in the fist half, my younger sister (midfielder Eliza Robinson '21) was fouled outside the box. She took the free kick as our team flooded in. I knew where her cross was going so I made sure to be there, and headed the ball in the goal — and it was that much more exciting because my little sister got the assist." The goal was the elder Robinson's first in a Middlebury uniform.

Sixteen minutes into the second half, the Panthers launched an attack that would net them their second goal of the game and put them up for good. Handling the ball in Mammoth territory, back Gretchen McGrath '21 found midfielder Amanda Dafonte '20 with a short pass; Dafonte proceeded to fire a laser just under the top crossbar and out of the Amherst keeper's reach. Although the Mammoths would threaten to score a few times later on, Middlebury's defense proved enough to secure them the win, 2–1.

At home against Hamilton on Sunday, the Panthers found themselves on the other side of the table in terms of chances. They outshot the Continentals 17–8; after Hamilton closed the first half with a goal, the Panthers dominated the ball in the second period, leading by twelve shots to one. However, they were only able to capitalize on one of those chances, and it came a little later than the Panthers would've liked: with 1:50 before the final whistle, the younger Robinson marked her second assist of the weekend when she chipped a pass that forward Eliza Van Voorhis '21 headed in. Both teams had their opportunities in the two overtime periods, but neither was able to tally a goal before the second extra ten-minute period expired.

In the future, the Panthers' success will depend on their ability to convert as many of those chances as possible. Head coach Peter Kim has faith in his players' ability to get better as the season goes on. "The team is young and dynamic, with lots of potential to create sharp, attack-minded soccer," he said. "We're still coming together on the field, and will continue to improve in the coming weeks."

Robinson shared her coach's optimism. "We are in a very good spot coming out of the weekend," she offered. "As much as we wanted 6 points, I think we are happy with the results. Heading into this next weekend, we need to stay focused. I think we will work on finishing a lot this week, because we are such a good team and really want to capitalize on all of our opportunities."

Next weekend, the Panthers will head over to Brunswick, Maine to take on the Bowdoin on Saturday, Sept. 23. The Polar Bears come into the came with an 0–2–1 record in conference play.

BY THE NUMB3RS

8 *Top eight finishers in the women's heat of the Aldrich Invite were Panthers.*

70 *Yard Lebowitz-to-Frank Cosolito '20 touchdown pass for the Panthers' first score of the season last weekend.*

.666 *The win percentage for the volleyball team dating back to the beginning of Nescacs last season.*

4 *Home game winning streak for the field hockey team — dating back to 2014 — that was snapped with a 3-2 loss to Hamilton last weekend.*

RIGAS' AND CASE'S NFL PICKS OF THE WEEK

Rams (-2.5) @ 49ers Tonight 8:25 ET, NFL o/u: 40	Rigas: Rams, under Case: Rams, under
Broncos (-3) @ Bills 1 ET, CBS o/u: 40.5	Rigas: Bills, under Case: Broncos, over
Ravens (-4) @ Jaguars 1 ET, CBS o/u: 39	Rigas: Jags, under Case: Jags, under
Saints @ Panthers (-6) 1 ET, FOX o/u: 48	Rigas: Saints, under Case: Panthers, under
Steelers (-7.5) @ Bears 1 ET, CBS o/u: 45	Rigas: Steelers, over Case: Bears, under
Falcons (-3) @ Lions 1 ET, FOX o/u: 49	Rigas: Falcons, over Case: Falcons, over
Browns (-1) @ Colts 1 ET, CBS o/u: 40	Rigas: Browns, under Case: Colts, under
Bucs @ Vikings—pick 'em 1 ET, FOX o/u: 40	Rigas: Bucs, over Case: Vikings, over
Texans @ Patriots (-13) 1 ET, CBS o/u: 43.5	Rigas: Patriots, over Case: Texans, under
Giants @ Eagles (-6) 1 ET, FOX o/u: 43.5	Rigas: Eagles, under Case: Giants, under
Dolphins (-6) @ Jets 1 ET, CBS o/u: 41.5	Rigas: Dophins, under Case: Jets, under
Seahawks @ Titans (-2.5) 4:05 FOX o/u: 43	Rigas: Titans, under Case: Seahawks, under
Bengals @ Packers (-9) 4:25 ET, CBS o/u: 44.5	Rigas: Bengals, over Case: Bengals, under
Chiefs (-3) @ Chargers 4:25 ET, CBS o/u: 46	Rigas: Chiefs, over Case: Chiefs, under
Raiders (-3) @ Redskins SNF 8:30 ET, NBC o/u: 54	Rigas: Raiders, over Case: Raiders, under
Cowboys (-3) @ Cardinals MNF 8:30 ET, ESPN o/u: 47	Rigas: Cardinals, under Case: Cowboys, over

GREAT EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM Case's Court	
1	**Volleyball**	Winning at Amherst and at Trinity is no small feat as they take aim for a regular season Nescac title.
2	**Cross Country**	Eight of the top 10 finishers in both events last weekend were Panthers, with the top eight in the women's race all Middlebury runners.
3	**Women's Soccer**	They knocked off No. 12 Amherst in northwest Massachusetts for the second try in a row, first since the 2015 Nescac quarterfinals.
4	**Men's Soccer**	The Oct. 7 trip to Medford looms large on the upcoming schedule.
5	**Football**	They held off a Wesleyan comeback attempt last Saturday and should coast into their Oct. 7 showdown at Amherst 3–0.
6	**Field Hockey**	Hopefully they won't be looking up at Hamilton for too long — keep it in perspective though, folks, that this team's goal is a national title, not a conference title.
7	**Rugby**	Looks like they're off to another hot start — see the coverage on p. ##
8	**This Prediction...**	Panthers QB Jared Lebowitz '18 will throw more TDs this season than Bears QB Mike Glennon

Golf Teams Both Look Forward to October Tournaments with Nescac Implications

By WILL CASE
Sports Editor

Last weekend, Sept. 16 and 17, the golf teams took the course to tune up for future tournaments with greater Nescac implications. The men's squad was at the Ralph, placing ninth out of a 25-team field in the 34th-annual Duke Nelson Invitational. The women's squad also took part in an annual invitational, but they had to take a familiar three-and-a-half hour trip south down I-89 to the Nehoiden Golf Club in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for the Ann S. Batchelder Invitational. The Panthers recovered from a tough first day to finish third in the six-team field.

For the second straight week, the women's team saw a significant first-to-second round improvement. Unlike their first week of action in the St. Lawrence Invitational that was held at the unfamiliar Oliver D. Appleton Golf Course in Canton, New York, the Nehoiden course in Wellesley is relatively familiar to the Panthers.

"In golf, there's a fine line between being focused and trying too hard," Chloe Levins '20 said, speaking to the team's slow starts. "Golf likes low expectations. We let our desire to win get the best of us on day one."

After carding an 84 on Saturday, Levins apparently took her own advice and marked down her score by eight strokes to shoot a 76 in Sunday's round.

Levins expressed that the team played a more characteristic game on Sunday by staying "patient and present."

"On day two, we went back to doing what we do best," Levins said.

While it was the second competition the team has played in thus far, last weekend's tournament was the first time the team has played since classes started.

"With classes underway, it's always more difficult to perform at your peak level in any sport," Levins said. "Our ability to play good golf while keeping up with school will only get better as the season goes on. We've started on the right foot."

Blake Yaccino '20 once again saw her score slightly decrease from the first to second rounds. But scores of 78 and 80 are nothing to sneeze at.

"I can't really attest to improvement between rounds because in both tournaments I did worse the second round," Yaccino said when asked about the relative struggles the team appears to have on the first days of tournaments. "However I believe that my team did better the second round due to confidence. Nerves have calmed by the second round and having played holes before you are aware of course management and can play the course more wisely."

Katharine Fortin '18 was among the Panthers to improve markedly from Saturday to Sunday, shooting an 80 then a 75. Among the top three teams in the tournament, only Levins had a better round-to-round stroke reduction (eight) than Fortin's five stroke improvement.

In preparation for next week, Yaccino said that the team's focus should be on the little things.

"I hope that we can prepare ourselves by working on little things that shave off strokes," Yaccino said. "Wedges from 100 yards in and decreasing the amount of three putts by working on distance putting this week," she said, are among the aspects of the game the team will work on.

"I hope we can go into the weekend with confidence in our preparation and be ready to compete and shoot consistently better in both rounds," Yaccino said. "Not just the second round."

"It goes without saying that we all want to perform our best at Nescacs," Levins said of the tournament looming next month. "The best way to do that is by staying completely present and purposeful about our practice each and every day. There's always something to work on, so now it's time to get to work."

And the Panthers are not that far off from their goal, which Yaccino addressed directly.

"We're just around five to 10 strokes off Williams," she said. "So it's really exciting for the team and I think knowing that helps push us to keep grinding."

Meanwhile, the highlights on the men's side were Graham Kenter '17.5's and Joe Ko '18's career weekends. Kenter shot a 75 on Saturday, and Ko shot two fantastic rounds of 71 and 72, proving that it may actually be possible to master the Ralph.

Ko credited the improvements we are seeing in his game with the work he put in this offseason.

"I think the main reason why I did well was due to the amount of work I put in leading up to the tournament," Ko said. "Like in any other sport, sometimes spending the extra 30 minutes to work on your game can definitely make a difference during the real game."

When asked if he knew he would have a career day early on in Saturday's round, Kenter reported that he actually had to overcome quite a bit of adversity at the start.

"Saturday started off really slowly," Kenter said. "It was a shotgun start so I started on hole number two and was five over thru my first five holes, and six over thru seven holes."

Kenter kept pushing though.

"I played really solid for the next 11 holes, going two under," he said.

Despite the ninth-place finish, the weekend was productive for the Panthers.

"It was great that everyone got a chance to compete over the weekend," Kenter said. "It is really hard to replicate tournament golf in practice so it is great that we were able to have 12 guys out there."

With that, Ko and Kenter both alluded to a trend that coach Beaney and many of the Panthers have noticed over the last season-plus.

"The competition in the Nescac has ramped up the past two years and we still need to grind as a team," Ko said.

This is certainly true. In fact, the competition overall has been improving, not just in the Nescac.

"Bennett, Joe and I were talking after the round about just how much better the level of play has gotten since we came into the program," Kenter said. "Babson shooting 572 would have been unheard of a couple years ago. And I think seven teams broke 600. Even with the great scoring conditions this weekend, it really goes to show how much better the level of competition is now then it was four or five years ago."

The Panthers have long dominated the conference and have had the likes of Williams, Trinity and Amherst striving to gain ground. Especially with the absence of Reid Buzby '19 and Phil Morin '19, both abroad, the Panthers need to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way to ensure a top-four finish at the Nescac qualifier next month.

"I think we have a really deep team," Kenter said, "even with Ben Bichet '19, Phil and Reid abroad. I think our depth will serve us well in the next couple of weeks."

"I think this tournament was a reminder for the entire team that we still have a lot of work to do," Ko added. "We saw a lot of great things this week from the team, especially the first-years. However, we are definitely not content with the results. I think this weekend will be a great motivating factor for us to work harder."

The men's squad is heading into what will be a pivotal weekend in their last chance to tune-up for the Nescac qualifier. They will head to Williamstown, Massachusetts, for the Williams Fall Invitational at Taconic.

"I hope that this can be a tournament where we can play well, get confidence, and have it be a testament to ourselves that we, as a team, are more than capable of bringing Nescacs back to the Ralph in the spring," Ko said.

The women's side will also make the trip to the Bay State, as they will play at The Orchards golf course in South Hadley, Massachusetts, for the Mount Holyoke Invitational.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP TOP 25 POLL

Rank	Record	Pts.	Trend
1. ALABAMA(45)	3–0	1504	—
2. CLEMSON(15)	3–0	1446	1
3. OKLAHOMA(1)	3–0	1432	(1)
4. PENN ST.	3–0	1306	1
5. USC	3–0	1241	(1)
6. OKLA. ST.	3–0	1154	3
7. WASHINGTON	3–0	1141	(1)
8. MICHIGAN	3–0	1081	(1)
9. WISCONSIN	3–0	1031	1
10. OHIO ST.	2–1	1015	(2)
11. GEORGIA	3–0	940	2
12. FLA. ST.	0–1	922	1
13. VA. TECH	3–0	730	3
14. MIAMI	1–0	606	3
15. AUBURN	2–1	596	—
16. TCU	3–0	553	4
17. MISS. ST.	3–0	532	NR
18. WASH. ST.	3–0	419	3
19. LOUISVILLE	2–1	356	(5)
20. FLORIDA	1–1	308	4
21. USF	3–0	272	1
22. SDSU	3–0	201	NR
23. UTAH	3–0	194	NR
24. OREGON	3–0	158	NR
25. LSU	2–1	153	(13)

NESCAC STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

School	Record
AMHERST	1-0
MIDDLEBURY	1-0
TRINITY	1-0
TUFTS	1-0
WILLIAMS	1-0
BATES	0-1
BOWDOIN	0-1
COLBY	0-1
HAMILTON	0-1
WESLEYAN	0-1

MEN'S SOCCER

School	Record	
	Conf.	Overall
TUFTS	2-0-1	4-0-1
BOWDOIN	2-1-0	4-2-0
MIDDLEBURY	2-1-0	4-1-0
WILLIAMS	2-1-0	3-1-0
CONN. COLLEGE	1-0-2	3-0-2
AMHERST	1-1-0	1-1-0
BATES	1-0-0	3-0-0
HAMILTON	1-2-0	3-2-1
COLBY	0-2-1	1-2-1
TRINITY	0-3-0	1-3-0
WESLEYAN	0-1-0	4-1-0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

School	Record	
	Conf.	Overall
WILLIAMS	4-0-0	5-0-0
TUFTS	2-0-2	3-0-2
CONN. COLLEGE	2-0-1	4-0-1
HAMILTON	1-2-1	2-2-1
MIDDLEBURY	1-1-1	3-1-1
AMHERST	1-1-0	3-2-0
BATES	1-0-0	3-1-0
BOWDOIN	0-2-1	1-2-1
COLBY	0-2-1	2-2-1
WESLEYAN	0-1-1	2-1-1
TRINITY	0-3-0	1-4-1

FIELD HOCKEY

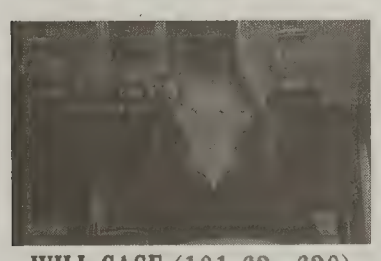
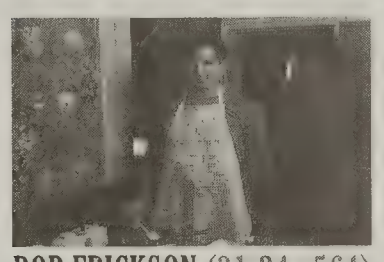
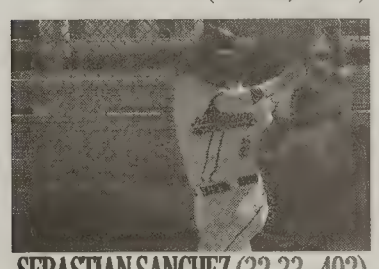
School	Record	
	Conf.	Overall
HAMILTON	3-0	4-1
TUFTS	3-0	3-1
BOWDOIN	3-1	3-1
MIDDLEBURY	2-1	3-1
WILLIAMS	2-1	3-1
AMHERST	1-1	3-1
COLBY	1-2	2-2
BATES	0-2	1-3
CONN. COLLEGE	0-3	1-4
TRINITY	0-3	1-3
WESLEYAN	0-1	2-2

VOLLEYBALL

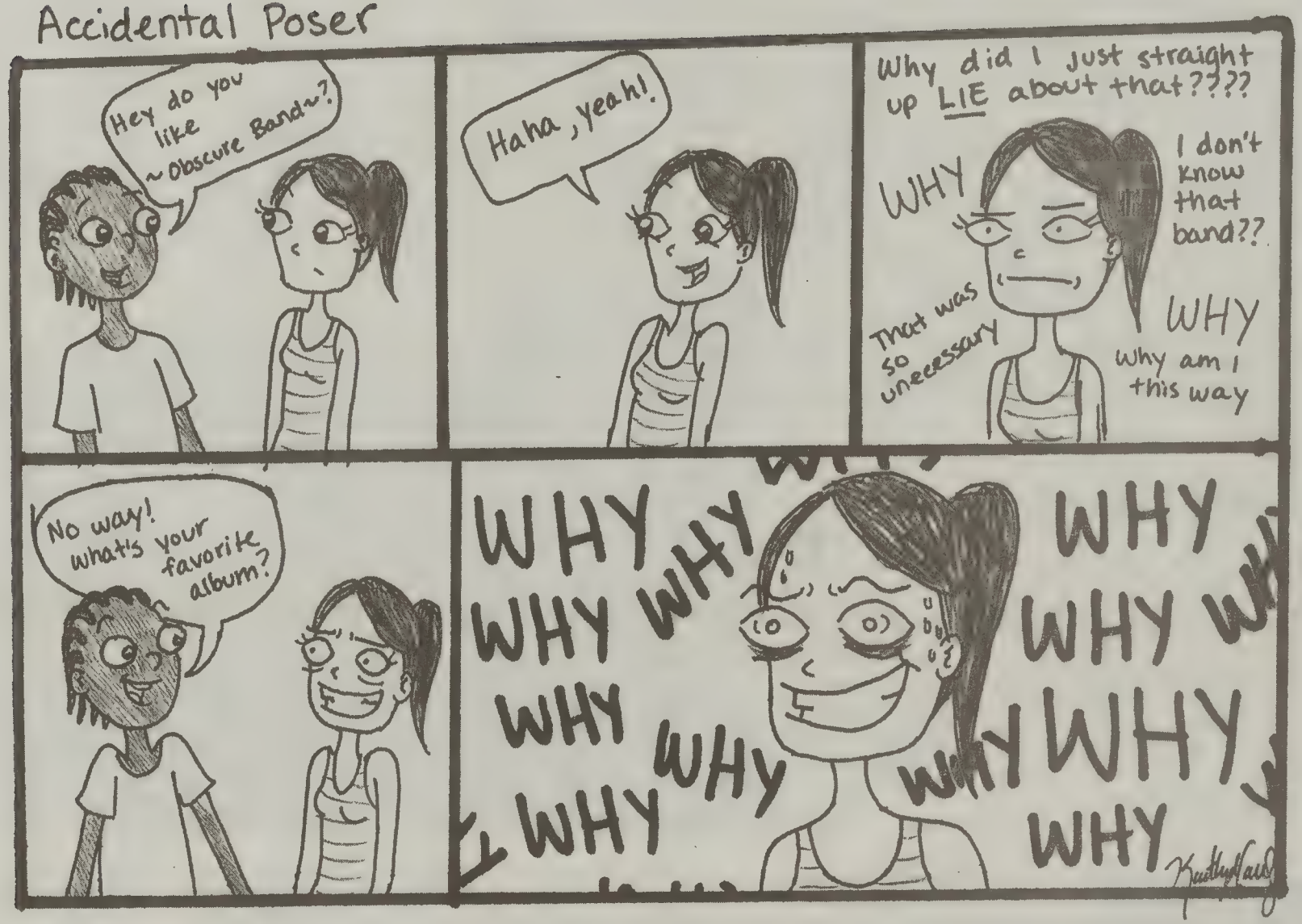
School	Record	
	Conf.	Overall
TUFTS	3-0	6-1
MIDDLEBURY	2-0	5-2
WESLEYAN	2-0	7-0
BOWDOIN	2-1	5-3
HAMILTON	1-1	3-2
WILLIAMS	1-1	3-4
AMHERST	0-1	6-3
BATES	0-2	3-5
COLBY	0-2	2-5
CONN. COLLEGE	0-2	6-2
TRINITY	0-1	3-3

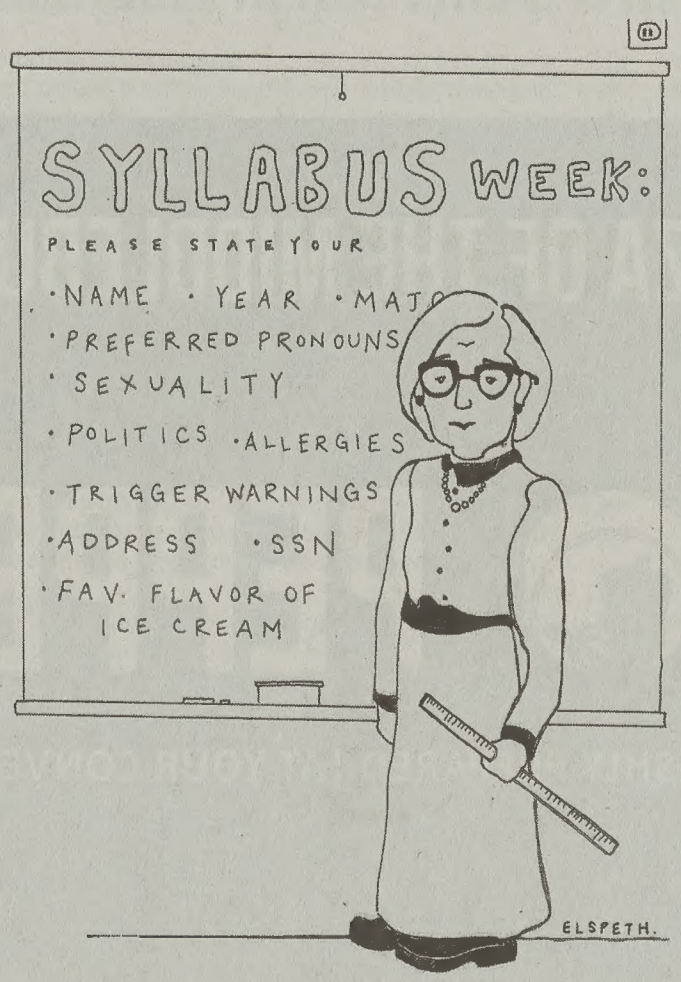
Tennis standings have not yet been released. Look for them in coming issues! Good luck to both teams!

EDITORS' PICKS

	Field Hockey: Who do you have in the latest rendition of the always anticipated showdown with Bowdoin?	**Men's Soccer: Can the Panthers knock off fellow Nescac front runner Bowdoin in Brunswick, Maine, this weekend?**	**CFB (obscure) pick-em: Saturday afternoon, Wake Forest at Appalachian State.**	**NFL pick-em: Sunday afternoon at 4:05 p.m. ET on Fox, Seahawks at Titans.**
 **WILL CASE (101-62, .620)**	MIDDLEBURY It will be tough, but they will bounce back following the loss to Hamilton.	YES After a pair of 1–0 wins last week, they've got momentum on their side.	APPALACHIAN STATE The Demon Deacons come in 3–0, but App. St. will show this ACC squad that it still has a long way to go.	SEAHAWKS Hard to think they'll keep struggling.
ANDREW RIGAS (82-60, .577)	MIDDLEBURY Midd beat Amherst and Amherst beat Bowdoin, so Midd will beat Bowdoin. That's how it works, right?	TIE Same conference record going in, same conference record afterwards.	WAKE FOREST The Demon Deacons have votes in the AP poll, no Mountaineer magic this time.	TITANS The Titans have been better thus far, and I don't see why that would change this week.
 **ROB ERICKSON (31-24, .564)**	BOWDOIN Think Bowdoin takes this one at home, setting the scene for the Panthers to avenge their loss in the Nescac championsips.	YES With the way Jed Sass '18 has been leading the way lately, why not?	WAKE FOREST Anybody who knows anything about obscure CFB picks will tell you that you always pick the team with fewer syllables in the name.	TITANS Seahawks didn't look too convincing when they barely snuck by the 49ers last Sunday.
 **SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (32-33, .492)**	— (Sebastian was not able to answer this question due to technical difficulties.)	YES Gotta be blue, baby.	WAKE FOREST I went on a college visit there...it was interesting, so why not?	SEAHAWKS I'm hoping they can give me some luck in my overall score.
EMILY BUSTARD (108-112, .491)	MIDDLEBURY I follow Andrew's reasoning.	YES Panthers > Polar Bears.	APPALACIAN STATE Sebastian you're going down!!!	SEAHAWKS My baby cousin has a really cute Seahawks outfit. They can't let her down.

MILLIE VON PLATEN


Accidental Poser
Hey do you like ~Obscure Band~?
Haha, yeah!
Why did I just straight up LIE about that????
WHY
I don't know that band??
That was so unnecessary
WHY
Why am I this way
No way! what's your favorite album?
WHY
WHY
WHY



ELLIE EBERLEE

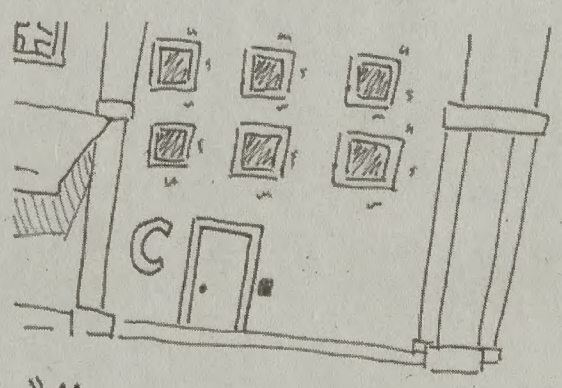
MICHAEL FRANK

There were a lot of promising entries for the "What Should Replace 51 Main?" contest...

"Nutrient"

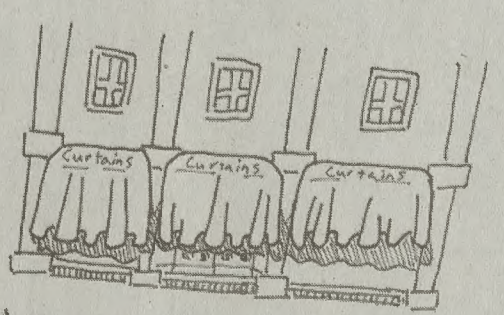
A vegan, paleo, gluten-free, dairy-less yoga studio + smoothie bar!

(Trigger warning: food, health, people, activity, air, breathing, existence)



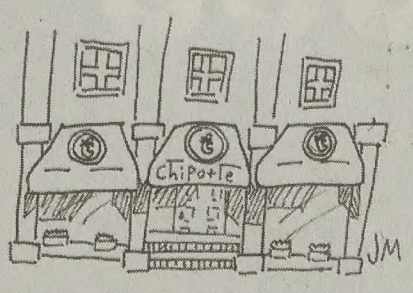
"More Atwater Suites"

Because there should never be a shortage of opportunities to get sweaty + uncomfortable!



"Curtains, Curtains, Curtains!"

Want shelves? We don't got 'em! We just got a lot of curtains!



... in the end they just went with a Chipotle

JENNY MOSS

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Before Michael Phelps, There Was Charles Daniels

By ETHAN BRADY
Editor in Chief

NEW YORK (SI) — If anyone deserves his spot on the Wheaties box, it's the Olympic champion Michael Phelps. He's the most decorated Olympian ever, having set world records in four consecutive Games. Though his specialty is the butterfly, he took to the front crawl for his race with a great white shark, which was televised July 24 on the Discovery Channel.

But the ubiquitous stroke known as freestyle wasn't used professionally until another American champion perfected it: Charles Meldrum Daniels of New York, born 100 years and three months before the Baltimore Bullet. Daniels developed the stroke from the old-school "trudgen," an unwieldy combination of a one-sided overhead stroke and a scissor kick. He replaced it with a six-beat flutter kick and a continuous stroke pattern.

English gentlemen, who had dominated the sport since the 1800s, considered the front crawl to be barbaric and "un-European," and continued to swim only the breaststroke in competition. That is, until Daniels started beating everyone in the pool. He went abroad to England in 1905, a year after his Olympic debut in St. Louis, to swim against the best British swimmers in their home waters. He came home undefeated.

"In five years Daniels has lifted American swimming from the rut in which it lay and placed it on par with other nations," wrote Daniels's trainer in the Pittsburgh Press after he won the 100-meter freestyle in the 1908 London Games. But Daniels did more than put the U.S. on par—he made it a powerhouse. He is the reason why swimmers now use the American crawl during freestyle events.

Daniels was born in 1885 in Dayton, Ohio, and moved to New York City as a young child. He learned how to swim at age 12. He joined the New York Athletic Club and was introduced to competitive swimming. At 19, Daniels became the first American to win an Olympic medal in swimming, which he did in St. Louis on Sept. 5, 1904. It was a silver medal in the men's 100-yard freestyle, held in a man-made lake in the heart of the city.

Over his career, he won eight Olympic medals: three golds, a silver and a bronze in St. Louis, a gold in Athens in 1906, and a gold and a bronze in London in 1908. This eight-medal total was an Olympic record that stood until the 1972 Games in Munich, when American swimmer Mark Spitz broke it. Spitz also won seven gold medals in that Olympics, another record that stood until Phelps won eight in the 2008 Beijing Games.

At one point in 1911, Daniels held world freestyle records at every distance from 25 yards to one mile. He posted 14 world records within a period of four days in 1905.

"I am going to stop racing after this spring," he told the San Francisco Call in 1911, reflecting on his career. "Understand, after I retire—if there are life preservers enough to go around, I shall simply crawl into one and float until some kind-hearted soul picks me up. No, siree; I won't even swim ashore."

Daniels became a squash and bridge champion at the New York Athletic Club. The year after his retirement, he purchased 5,000 acres of land in the Adirondacks, New York, with his wife, Florence Goodyear, an heiress to a vast timber fortune. Daniels built a 9-hole golf course on his estate called Sabattis Park. The course entertained some noted players, who spent their summers on the property.

(Phelps is also an amateur golfer. He holed a 159-foot putt at the Dunhill Links in 2012 in what is thought to be the longest televised putt ever.)

Despite his pledge not to race again, Daniels continued to swim on the lake beside his golf course. He was an early riser and made a ritual out of his morning workouts. He would swim two miles across Bear Pond and have a servant meet him with hot coffee and that day's New York Tribune.

When he retired, Daniels wanted to be remembered for something other than his swimming. Along with his wife, Daniels founded Tarnedge Foxes, the oldest silver fox ranch in the U.S. Daniels was also an avid hunter, finding game in Mexico and on African safaris. He filled an entire trophy room in his mansion with huge animal heads, including rhinoceros and water buffalo.

To this day, several original buildings remain on the property, which is now a wilderness camp for the Boy Scouts. The mansion was torn down in 1973. The animal heads still hang in a big red barn.

Daniels moved to California in 1943, where he made headlines working as a swim instructor for the Army during World War II. He disappeared from the swimming world for a number of years. When he was inducted into the first class of the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1965, no one knew where he was. Daniels resurfaced in 1972, but had gone nearly blind. He died the next year in Carmel Valley Village, California.

"There seem to be rhythm and music and poetry in his swimming," wrote the San Francisco Call in 1911. The quote was describing Daniels, but anyone who remembers Phelps barreling down his lane in Beijing or London or Rio de Janiero could say the same. Perhaps in Phelps, we see that a part of Daniels still lives on. That, through the beat of his flutter kick, he simply became music.

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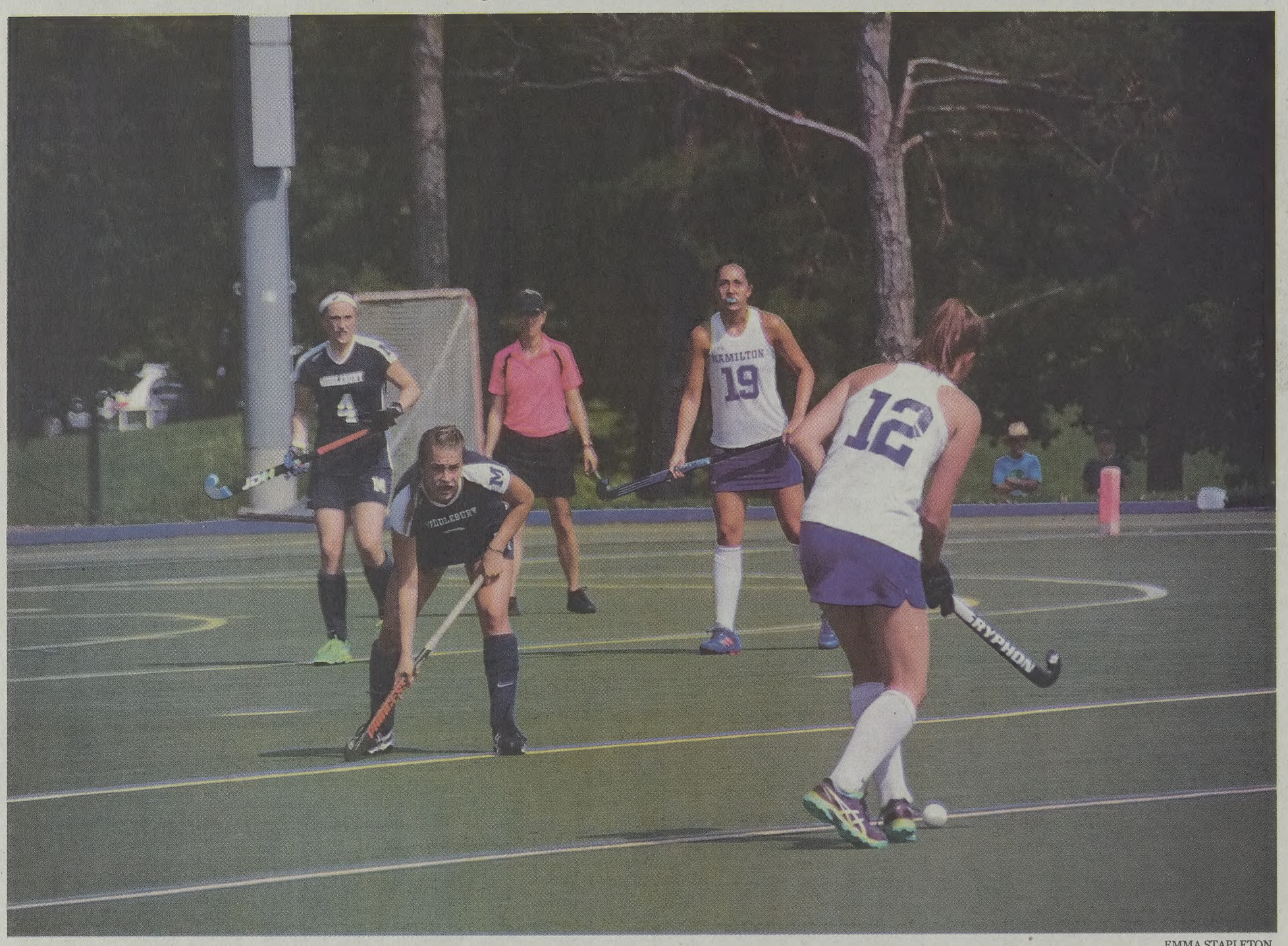
Field Hockey Looks to Bounce Back



EMMA STAPLETON

Epic Winning Streak That Dated Back to 2014 Is No More

Until last Sunday, Sept. 17, the Panthers had not lost at Kohn Field since a controversial 2–1 loss to Bowdoin on Sept. 20, 2014. That season's team made it all the way to the Final Four. This weekend, they head to Bowdoin.

Volleyball Off to Stellar Start

By JAKE TURTEL
Staff Writer

Coming off a 2–2 split the weekend prior, the Middlebury Women's Volleyball team swept their opening set of conference matches, taking to the road to beat the Amherst Mammoths and the Trinity Bantams. Their Nescac record moved to 2–0 in the process.

On Friday, September 15, Isabel Sessions '19 led the Panthers with 19 kills as the visitors came back in the first set to top Amherst, three sets to two (22–25, 25–22, 23–25, 25–22, 16–14). In a match that was always close — each set was decided by three points or less —, it was Middlebury who came out victorious. After the two teams traded the first four sets, the Panthers were behind with the game on the line in the fifth, but they dug out a gritty victory in a thrilling finish.

When the pressure mounted, the visitors never wavered. Gigi Alper '20, who contributed 28 digs (a good number of which came in crunch time), was never worried.

"We knew that if we stayed composed and executed our game plan, the results would take care of themselves," Alper said. "I'm proud of my teammates for turning up the intensity and staying aggressive when we needed to put the match away."

Becca Raffel '18 continued her hot start to the season, registering 17 kills of her own. Of the team's eight service aces, Beth Neal '20 notched half. Helping to orchestrate the Panther offense, Chellsa Ferdinand '20 contributed a match-high 49 assists. Eliana Schaefer '18 and Sarah Staver '19 provided the defense by blocking five Mammoth shots apiece.

The next day Middlebury visited Trinity, where the Panthers fought hard in yet another close match. Once again they came out on top, securing a 3–1 victory (25–23, 19–25, 25–19, 25–18) and moving to 2–0 in conference play. Sessions once again led the match in kills (17), but this time Ferdinand finished with the most service aces (3). The Panthers' outperformed the Bantams in three major categories: hitting percentage (.221 to .146), blocks (7 to 6), and service aces (4 to 2).

After two losses to finish their tournament the weekend prior, getting their confidence back was huge for the team. Emily Kolodka '18 said, "It feels great to sweep the opening conference weekend. Obviously we're always happy to get wins, especially in conference. This weekend we really wanted to start off strong by focusing on ourselves and our goals instead of the opponent, and we're looking forward to continued success." Many are looking for that success to come with their offense: Raffel and Schaefer are both in the top five in the Nescac in kills (95 and 81, respectively).

The Panthers return to Nescac competition on Friday, Sept. 29, when they host Bates; first comes a match against St. Michael's on Tuesday, Sept. 19, and the Roadrunner Invitational Tournament hosted by Ramapo this upcoming weekend.

Senior captain Emily Koladka '18 (above) and Gigi Alper '20 (below) were key cogs in the Middlebury machine that led to victory at Amherst and at Trinity last weekend.

LOSS OVERSHADOWS BIG WIN AGAINST AMHERST

BOWDOIN MATCHUP PRESENTS QUICK TURNAROUND OPPORTUNITY

Fifth-ranked field hockey had a Nescac doubleheader last weekend, Saturday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 17. They started the weekend with a 2–1 road victory at Amherst on Saturday, but could not manage to recoup for their Sunday tilt with Hamilton. The 3–2 loss to the Camels snapped Middlebury's 26 game home win streak, which dated back to 2014.

Against the Mammoths, who could not muster anything offensively in the first half, the Panthers struck first 12 minutes into the game when Audrey Quirk '18 rebounded a penalty corner taken by Lauren Schweppe '18.

Olivia Green '20 talked about how the team's execution of a new formation was a key to their success.

"We were really able to shut down Amherst's top players and worked well together," Green said. "We did a great job moving the ball around the field and connecting on our passes."

The Mammoths did not manage to get on the board until late in the second half, but the tie did not last long as Kelly Coyle '20 answered right back with a shot that railed into the back of the net. Coyle's goal sealed a 2–1 Panther victory. The level of play was not as close as the score indicated though, with Middlebury finishing with a 17–7 shot advantage.

Middlebury could not enjoy the road victory for long, as not even 24 hours later they made the trek back to Kohn Field where they took on an increasingly formidable Hamilton team.

The team suffered its first setback of the season as Hamilton got on the board with 2 goals in the first half. Emma Johns '20 closed out the half with a rebounded shot and gave the Panthers some momentum going into the next half.

Hamilton scored again 10 minutes into the second half, but Quirk made it a one-goal game with a minute remaining, as she tipped in a pass from Molly Freeman '19. It was too little, too late.

"The captains did a great job at uniting the team at the end of the weekend," said Green. They helped the team "keep our heads up high and look to the future instead of dwelling on the past."

Middlebury will take their 2–1 conference record to Brunswick, Maine, on Saturday where faceoff is set for 11 a.m.

EMMA STAPLETON

Sophia Peluso '20 looks for a teammate in the box last Sunday.

Men's and Women's Cross Country Earn First Place

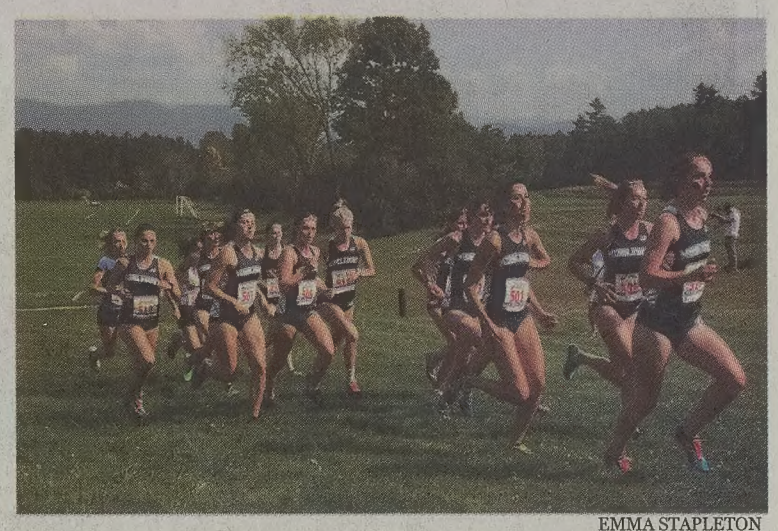
By Jordan Howell
Staff Writer

The men's and women's cross country teams both captured another first place finish last Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Aldrich Invitational, thoroughly dominating local competition from Norwich University, St. Michael's College and Vermont Technical.

The top eight finishers in the women's race were all Panthers, who won with a score of fifteen points. St. Michael's came in second with 61 points and Norwich came in third with 65 points. The Panthers' top five runners were Abigail Nadler '19 with a time of 19:15.6, Kate MacCary '19 with a time of 19:23.9, Meg Wilson '20 with a time of 19:46.9, Talia Ruxin '20 with a time of 19:52.1 and Rory Kelly '19 with a time of 19:55.0. Kelly had the one of the largest decreases in time compared to last week's meet, lowering her time by about 16 seconds.

The men were also able to win with a score of fifteen points since they captured the first six places in the race, and had eight runners in the top 10 finishers. Norwich came in second with a score of 50, St. Michael's was third with 82 and Vermont Technical rounded things out with 120. The top five runners were Harrison Knowlton '19 with a time of 26:59.9, Matt D'Aquila '21 with 27:04.2, Henry Fleming '20 with 27:13.5, Andrew Michelson '19 with 27:21.3 and Miles Meijer '19 with 27:21.8. Fleming improved his time the most, as he lowered it by 29.5 seconds.

The Panthers will face a step-up in competition this weekend when they compete at the Purple Valley Classic in Williamstown, Massachusetts, on Saturday, Sept. 23. The men finished seventh and the women finished 10th in fields of 23 teams last year.



EMMA STAPLETON

Cross country dominated last Saturday's Aldrich Invitational. They will face stiffer competition when they run again two days from now on Saturday, Sept. 23, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where they are set to take part in the Purple Valley Classic.